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AP/GETTY IMAGES

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READY FOR RESEARCH



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AP FILE PHOTO

Instrumental metal band Pelican flies high | **Weekend Pass**



FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 35



EYE OPENERS

Woman a Few Camels Short of a Manger Scene

A Birmingham, Ala., woman who changed her name to Jesus Christ didn't live up to it when she reported for jury duty this week. She was excused Monday because she was disruptive and kept asking questions instead of answering them. A court administrator said people there were shocked when the woman insisted her name was Jesus Christ. Efforts to reach Christ for comment were unsuccessful. (AP)

“It’s not for ‘colored’ people. I had a problem with some bikers, and I put it up to nip it in the bud.”

— **MANNY KUSTURISS**, WHO POSTED A SIGN READING “STOP, ABSOLUTELY NO COLOR’S” [SIC], IN HIS DUNEDIN, FLA., BAR. HE SAYS HE MEANT NO FLASHING OF BIKER GANG COLORS.

Marlboro Man Comes Out of Retirement



Two cows escaped from a trailer onto a busy Springfield, Mass., highway, but a cowboy stuck in the traffic jam came to the rescue. Police say a man wearing a Western hat and boots lassoed the 500-pound heifers Tuesday morning as they wandered on Interstate 91. Troopers shut down the highway for about 30 minutes as the man helped load the animals back into a trailer. The cowboy didn't want to be publicly identified. (AP)

The Big Picture



AFTER REPORTS surfaced that two dogs had been infected with the H1N1 virus in Beijing, some pet owners outfitted their pets with wee surgical masks to make sure neither they nor the animals would be the next victims. Authorities have said not to panic: It's highly unlikely that dogs can pass the virus to humans. (EXPRESS)

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In Brief

ALBANY, N.Y.

Same-Sex Marriage Bill Fails in the State Senate

New York lawmakers rejected a bill Wednesday that would have made their state the sixth to allow gay marriage, disheartening advocates already stung by a similar decision by Maine voters just last month. The New York measure failed by a wider-than-expected margin, falling 12 votes short in a 24-38 decision by the state Senate. The Assembly had earlier approved the bill. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

New Detail in Yale Case

Police found blood on the kitchen floor of the home of a Yale University lab technician charged with killing a Yale graduate student days before her wedding, according to search warrant affidavits. Raymond Clark III sent e-mails to 24-year-old Annie Le "in the recent past," the affidavits said. The warrants do not indicate the source of the blood. (AP)

NEW YORK

TARP Funds to Be Repaid

Bank of America Corp. said Wednesday it plans to repay its \$45 billion in government bailout funds in the next few days, a move that will help the bank recruit a new CEO. The bank said it would use available cash and raise \$18.8 billion to repay the money, which it received during the credit crisis last year. (AP)

A Green Light for War Strategy

Skeptical lawmakers sign off on increase in Afghanistan force

Washington

A deeply skeptical Congress on Wednesday resigned itself to President Obama's escalation of the Afghanistan war, even as the president's chief military and diplomatic advisers sought to cool any expectations that the war would end in two years.

Leading Democrats said they had serious misgivings about the deployment of 30,000 more troops but would not try to stop the deployments or block the \$30 billion the military will need. Republicans said they support the force increase even as they questioned Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home.

The response was the best Obama could have hoped for from a sharply divided Congress.

"It's not likely that there would be any circumstances where the president would lose this battle this year" with lawmakers, said



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen testified about Afghanistan Wednesday.

Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., a vocal critic of the war who oversees military spending.

In House and Senate hearings on Wednesday, Obama's advisers warned that the stakes were great. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said losing the war "would have

severe consequences for the United States and the world."

The testimony was aimed at building support among war-weary lawmakers for Obama's rewrite of the battle plan in Afghanistan. By the end of next summer, the president plans to increase to 100,000

Biden on Board**Vice President**

Joe Biden, who administration officials have said was one of the most vocal skeptics of a troop buildup in Afghanistan, appeared on the morning news shows Wednesday to express his support for the president's plan. He said he did not want the administration's strategy to "morph into a nation-building exercise that would keep us there for 10 years," and he was confident that Obama's approach would avoid that scenario. (AP)

the number of U.S. troops there. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he expected the allies to bolster the buildup with more than 5,000 troops.

When pressed, Gates said the beginning of drawing down troops in July 2011 would not necessarily be based on conditions in Afghanistan and that the president was committed to begin pulling at least some troops by that date. (AP)



STORY SPIN

Not a waste of time? Police in Alcoa, Tenn., say a recent beer sting was a complete failure, and they couldn't be happier about it. Authorities enlisted an underage person try to buy beer from 27 businesses, including convenience markets, restaurants and food stores in the area. The youngster was turned down by clerks at all of them Friday. In a statement, the police called the operation a "pleasant failure." (AP)

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Nation

Leaked E-Mails Debated on Hill

House Republicans say memos weaken climate change data

Washington

Top White House science officials defended the validity of global warming research against repeated Republican attacks Wednesday that cited leaked e-mails from some climate researchers.

The e-mails taken from a British university's climate center were obtained by computer hackers and released last month. Climate change skeptics contend the messages reveal that researchers manipulated and suppressed data and stifled dissent.

In the first Capitol Hill airing of the issue, House Republicans read excerpts from at least eight of the e-mails, saying they showed the



Rep. James Sensenbrenner says the memos indicate manipulation of data.

world needs to re-examine experts' claims that the science is settled. One e-mail from 2003 was by John Holdren, then of Harvard University and now the president's science adviser.

The brewing controversy led to the resignation this week of Phil Jones, the head of the climate

research unit at the University of East Anglia, the source of the e-mail exchanges. Penn State University also is looking into e-mails by its own researcher, Michael Mann. Republicans asked for a hearing or investigation into the issue but were rebuffed by Democrats.

"These e-mails show a pattern of suppression, manipulation and secrecy that was inspired by ideology, condescension and profit," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, a Republican.

The science is proper, and this is about a small fraction of research on the issue, said Holdren, a physicist who has studied climate change.

"The e-mails do nothing to undermine the very strong scientific consensus ... that tells us the Earth is warming," said Jane Lubchenco, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. SETH BORENSTEIN (AP)



ENVIRONMENT

Black-tailed prairie dogs were denied protection under the Endangered Species Act on Wednesday after federal officials concluded the once-prevalent species shows signs of rebounding. Decades of poisonings, shootings, the plague and loss of habitat to agriculture are blamed for a dramatic drop in prairie dog numbers since the early 1900s, from roughly 1 billion animals to an estimated 24 million today. (AP)

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More Charges in Ft. Hood Attack

Suspect in massacre is hit with 32 counts of attempted murder

Forth Worth, Texas

An Army psychiatrist was charged Wednesday with 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the deadly mass shooting at Fort Hood that also injured more than two dozen soldiers and two civilian police officers, military officials said.

Maj. Nidal Hasan has already been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder after the Nov. 5 shooting in a building at the Texas base where soldiers must go



Maj. Nidal Hasan, the suspect in the Fort Hood attack, is still in the hospital.

before being deployed. Witnesses said he jumped on a desk and shouted "Allahu Akbar!" — Arabic for "God is great!" Army officials have said he was armed with two

pistols, one a semiautomatic capable of firing up to 20 rounds without reloading.

The additional charges come less than 24 hours after Hasan's civilian attorney was notified that the Army plans to evaluate Hasan to test his competency to stand trial and his mental state at the time of the shooting.

John Galligan, Hasan's attorney, said he did not know when the "mental responsibility" exam would take place. Galligan said he had filed an objection to the evaluation pointing out that Hasan was still in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital recovering from gunshot wounds that left him paralyzed. **ANGELA K. BROWN (AP)**

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The Center for Health Behavior Research at the **University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health**, under the direction of Elbert D. Glover, Ph.D., is conducting a research study of a new investigational vaccine to help smokers quit smoking.

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In Brief



AFP PHOTO/IRINN TV

An anchorwoman reads the news at a TV studio in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN

Iran Says Women on TV Cannot Wear Makeup

Iran's state television will ban makeup for women, "abnormal" music and unruly children, an Iranian newspaper reported Wednesday. The broadcaster's top manager, Ezzatollah Zarghami, told his managers that female presenters wearing makeup are to be taken off air, saying the wearing of makeup was against the law. (TWP)

VIENNA

Ahmadinejad Vows to Enrich Uranium Further

In a defiant speech, Iran's president declared Wednesday that his country will enrich uranium to a much higher level — a fresh rejection of an international plan to curb Tehran's nuclear program. (AP)

BERN, SWITZERLAND

Polanski to Begin His House Arrest on Friday

After more than two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski will be placed under house arrest at his Alpine chalet on Friday, authorities said. The director must stay in the house and wear an electronic bracelet as officials decide whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. (AP)

ROME

Experts: Man Controlled Robotic Hand With Mind

An Italian who lost his left forearm in a car crash was successfully linked to a robotic hand, allowing him to feel sensations in the artificial limb and control it with his thoughts, scientists said Wednesday. (AP)

Troops Upbeat on Afghan Plan

U.S. soldiers welcome increase in forces but question new timeline

Forward Operating Base Airborne, Afghanistan

U.S. service members in Afghanistan said Wednesday that President Obama's decision to send 30,000 more troops offered hope that they can go home — if the reinforcements can build up the Afghan army to protect civilians against the Taliban.

The troops at this base in Wardak province, west of Kabul, learned of Obama's decision while watching TV clips of his speech during their breakfast of sausage, eggs, hash browns, fruit and cereal. Obama said that if conditions permit, the troops could begin coming home in 18 months.

"Really, I'm truly happy," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Phillip M. Hauser, an explosives demolition expert from Salina, Kan., who is on his fourth tour of Afghanistan and Iraq. "As soon as the Afghans can do it on their own without our help, we can go home."

Hauser said the Afghans were inexperienced — but he didn't question their determination.



U.S. soldiers talk before leaving on patrol at Forward Operating Base Airborne, near Maidan Shar, Afghanistan, on Wednesday.

"They charge in and start pulling the wires" on the explosives, Hauser said. "It's not the safest way to do things, but these guys have the guts."

Sgt. Maj. Andrew Spano of Northboro, Mass. — deployed with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division — wondered whether to bank on the beginning of a U.S. pullout

"Obama talking to the American people and the world shows that we have much greater direction."

— SGT. MAJ. ANDREW SPANO,
AMERICAN SOLDIER SERVING IN
AFGHANISTAN

in 18 months.

That fear was echoed by some Afghan officials who believed the timeline was too short. When asked about the timeframe, Spano asked: "What does it really mean?"

Capt. Mark Reel from Norfolk, Va., a civil affairs officer, said more troops means nothing unless they can give Afghans a sense of security. (AP)

Google to Help Publishers Limit Free Articles

London

In a move that could help improve relations between Google Inc. and the media industry, the Internet search company is offering publishers a way to bolster "pay walls" around their online stories while still appearing in search results.

In an official blog post Tuesday, Google said it will let publish-

ers limit the number of restricted articles that readers can see for free through its search engine.

The change could remove one hurdle publishers face as they contemplate charging readers online. Many papers are considering such fees because online advertising on free sites hasn't offset the precipitous decline in print ad revenue that has come with the recession and com-

petition from the Web.

The Wall Street Journal is perhaps the best example of how the new tool could help.

The paper charges for access to most articles on its Web site, but its pay wall is "leaky." Readers can grab the first sentence from a preview of the story, punch it into Google and access the full story in the search results.

The Journal could block Google from indexing its stories, but that would cut traffic to its site.

The problem has infuriated executives at News Corp., which owns the Journal. News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch told a conference organized by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday that media companies should stop news aggregators such as Google from "feeding off the hard-earned efforts ... of others." (AP)



LOVE

Edwin Ortiz was about to say "I do," but the mother of his two kids had a different message: "Oh, no, you don't." One moment, the 27-year-old was sitting in a wedding hall with 17 other couples, declaring his love for his wife-to-be in the town of Miraflores, Peru. The next, two relatives of his ex-partner burst into the room and began to scream at him. The ex-partner's relatives were jailed for the attack on Saturday. (AP)

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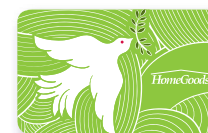
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World

A Doctor's Death Fuels Fear in Iran

MD who exposed torture of prisoners ate poisoned salad

Cairo

A 26-year-old doctor who exposed the torture of jailed protesters in Iran died of poisoning from a delivery salad laced with an overdose of blood pressure medication, prosecutors say. The findings fueled opposition fears that he was killed because of what he knew.

Investigators are still trying to determine whether his death last month was a suicide or murder, Tehran's public prosecutor Abbas Dowlatnabi said, according to the state news agency IRNA.

The revelations of torture against prisoners in Iran's post-election turmoil angered even government supporters.

Much of the abuse took place at Kahrizak, a prison on Tehran's outskirts where hundreds of opposition protesters were taken. Several there died, and the facility became so notorious that Iran's supreme leader was forced to close it.

Ramin Pourandarjani, a doctor at Kahrizak, later testified to a par-



Meanwhile

Iran freed five British sailors detained last week when their racing yacht drifted accidentally into Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf. The men arrived in Dubai flashing smiles. "After carrying out an investigation ... it became clear that [the sailors'] illegal entry was a mistake," the Revolutionary Guard said in a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency. (AP)

liamentary committee and reportedly told them that a young protester he treated died from severe torture. He said he was also forced by security officials to list the cause of death as meningitis, according to opposition Web sites.

Pourandarjani died on Nov. 10 in mysterious circumstances, with authorities initially saying he was in a car accident, had a heart attack or committed suicide. LEE KEATH (AP)

Construction as Criticism

JEWISH SETTLERS BUILD a cement foundation for a synagogue as a symbolic act of protest against the Israeli government's decision to freeze construction of homes in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat on Wednesday.

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP



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World



Burj Dubai — designed to be the world's tallest tower — looms over Dubai, U.A.E., left.

Amid Low, Dubai Hits New Height

Completion of tallest tower may represent end of an era of excess

Dubai, U.A.E.

When work began in 2004 to build the world's tallest tower, Dubai's confidence also was sky-high with a host of mega-projects rising from the sands.

That swagger seems positively old-school these days. It's been tripped up by a debt crunch that has humbled Dubai's leaders and exposed the shaky foundations of the city-state's boom years — leaving the planned Jan. 4 opening of the iconic Burj Dubai with a double significance of hello and goodbye.

The Burj Dubai — a steel-and-glass needle rising more than a half-mile — may be the last completed work from Dubai's time of the giants. Dubai last week dropped what amounted to a financial bombshell — announcing its main

Tall Orders

The Burj Dubai is not the first skyscraper to go up as the economy swooned.

► New York's 102-story Empire State Building was designed as the world's tallest just before the 1929 stock market crash and opened in 1931 during the Great Depression.

► In 1999, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, opened to claim the world-tallest crown — two years after the meltdown of the Southeast Asian economies.

government-backed development group, Dubai World, needed at least a six-month breather from creditors owed nearly \$60 billion.

The Burj Dubai gala is now a welcome diversion. And one without a direct political sting: The building was developed by Emaar Properties, a state-backed firm not linked to the current debt meltdown. **BRIAN MURPHY (AP)**



CRUSH HOUR

Commuters who ride London's sub-

ways are so uncomfortable due to overcrowding that many mentally prepare themselves before boarding, a report by the London Assembly's Transport Committee found. Tube riders use methods that include "psyching oneself up" and a "survival of the fittest attitude." (EXPRESS)

A New Stem Cell Era

In a medical milestone, NIH approves the use of human embryos in research

Washington

The Obama administration on Wednesday approved the first human embryonic stem cells for experiments by federally funded scientists under a new policy designed to dramatically expand government support for one of the most promising but also most contentious fields of biomedical research.

The National Institutes of Health authorized 11 lines of cells produced by scientists at the Children's Hospital in Boston and two lines created by researchers at the Rockefeller University in New York. All were obtained from

"This is the first down payment on what is going to be a much longer list."

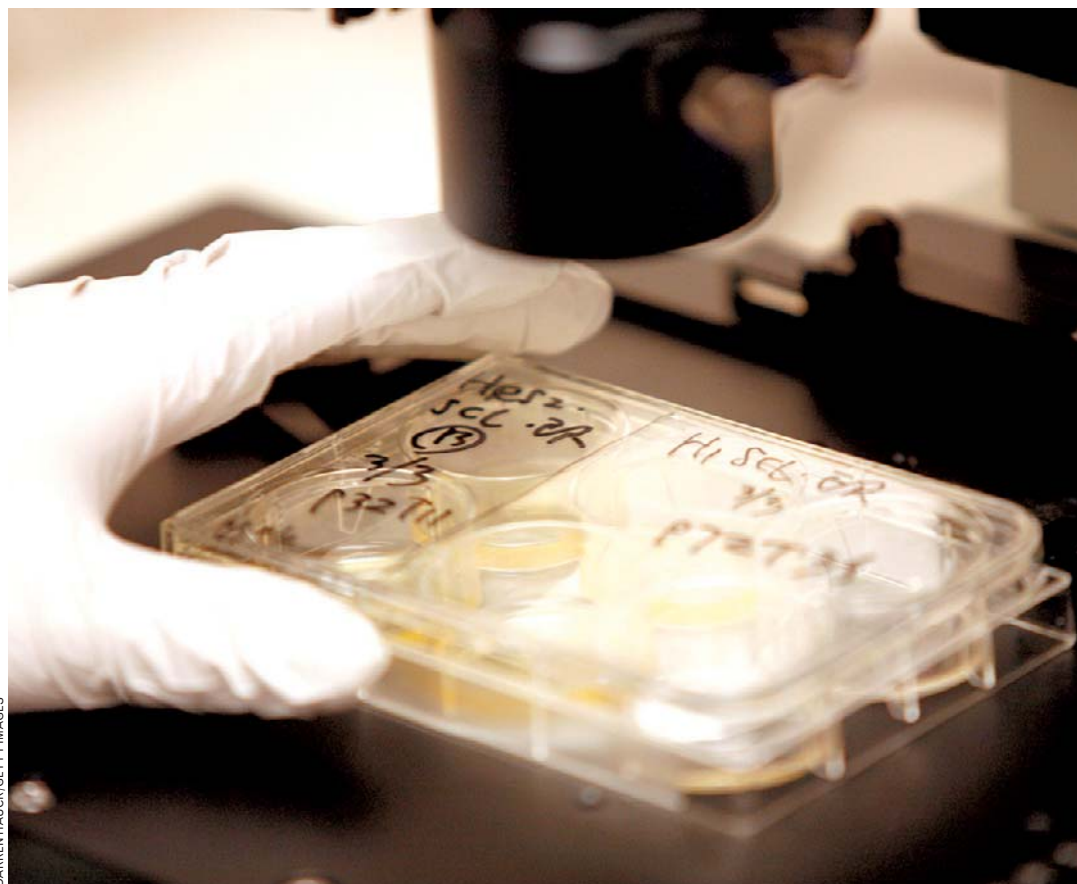
— NIH DIRECTOR FRANCIS COLLINS, ARGUING THAT THE BENEFITS OF WEDNESDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS TO COME.

embryos left over by couples seeking treatment for infertility.

"This is a real change in the landscape," NIH Director Francis Collins said. "This is the first down payment on what is going to be a much longer list ... that will empower the scientific community to explore the potential of embryonic stem cell research."

The move was hailed by supporters as a long-awaited watershed that would finally allow scientists to start using millions of dollars in taxpayer money to study hundreds of lines of cells that had been put off-limits by President Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, on moral grounds.

Under the Bush policy, feder-



The NIH's approval to use stem cells in research reopens a debate about the ethics of using human embryos for science.

The Changes

Why It's Important

Many scientists believe embryonic stem cells will yield fundamental insights into the underlying causes of a host of diseases and could someday be used to cure diabetes, Parkinson's disease, paralysis and other ailments. Stem cells are prized because they can replicate themselves and become almost any type of human tissue. (TWP)

96

The number of other stem cell lines that are awaiting a review by the National Institutes of Health. Another 254 lines may soon be submitted for possible research approval.

ally funded scientists were limited to studying just a handful of cell lines that many criticized as deficient, had to erect cumbersome bureaucratic procedures to separate government-funded research

from privately funded work and were sometimes even prevented from sharing ideas. Now, although embryonic stem cell lines will still have to be created using private funding, federal funding will be

permitted for experiments using a much larger array of lines, vastly expanding the number of scientists and types of experiments permitted with taxpayer dollars.

"This is what we've been waiting for," said Amy Comstock Rick of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research, the group that has been leading the lobbying effort to loosen federal restrictions on the research.

But the announcement was condemned by those who argued that aside from being unethical, the work is unnecessary because of the availability of adult stem cells and other more recently identified alternatives.

"The tragedy of this is multiplied by the fact that no one can

How We Got Here

1996 Congress passed what is known as the Dickey-Wicker amendment outlawing the use of government funds for the creation or destruction of embryos for research purposes. Congress has reauthorized the amendment every year. Because of the amendment, government-funded researchers can use only stem cells that others have made.



2001 In August, President Bush signed an executive order limiting government funding of stem cell research to a handful of existing samples. In July of 2006, Bush issued

the first veto of his presidency for a bill that would have lifted the funding restrictions. Bush said the bill would have crossed "a moral boundary that our decent society needs to respect."

2009 In March, President Obama issued an executive order overturning the rules put in place by then-President Bush. The stem cell lines still have to meet a strict set of criteria, such as making sure couples were not offered any financial incentives, knew the embryos would be destroyed for research and were offered the option of instead donating the embryos to other couples. (TWP)

think what the problem is that can only be solved by these cells," said Richard M. Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Collins, an evangelical Christian who has argued that science and religion do not need to be in conflict, defended the work.

"I think that there is an argument to be made that what is being done is ethically acceptable," Collins said, "even if you believe in the inherent sanctity of the human embryo."

ROB STEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Va. Yogis Take Regulators to Mat

Instructors say plan to force yoga teacher licenses is unlawful

Alexandria, Va.

The state of Virginia wants to make sure that if you learn to be a yoga instructor, the people who teach you the Half Moon, the Sleeping Vishnu and the Upward Facing Dog poses know what they're doing.

But three yoga instructors filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Virginia regulators, claiming that the state's plan to license yoga teacher-training programs is an unconstitutional restriction of free speech.

"It's just daft. It's just a ridiculous idea," said Suzanne Leitner-Wise, one of the plaintiffs and a yoga instructor who has provided training to then-U.S. Sen. Mark



Yoga instructors Suzanne Leitner-Wise, left, and Bev Brown, both of Alexandria, say the state's plan to regulate yoga teachers infringes on their free speech rights.

Warner, D-Va. "It's the students who determine whether you're a competent teacher," not the state.

The State Council of Higher

Education for Virginia, a regulatory body, had planned to impose licensure requirements on yoga teacher-training programs by the

end of the year but has agreed to wait a few months at the request of state legislators.

The council does not want to regulate all yoga teaching but says it has a duty to regulate the training of teachers.

In Virginia, Leitner-Wise says the licensure program requires a \$2,500 application fee, annual renewals of at least \$500 and loads of paperwork, none of which is necessary.

Meanwhile, Virginia Delegate David Bulova, D-Fairfax, said he expects to introduce legislation that would either exempt yoga studios from the regulations or provide some other type of relief.

"I have not seen a compelling reason so far for why we should go ahead and add this burden on yoga studios, especially in this economy," Bulova said. **MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)**

Times Says Staff Cuts Are in Store

Washington

The Washington Times says staff cuts are in store as it aims to improve its multimedia reach.

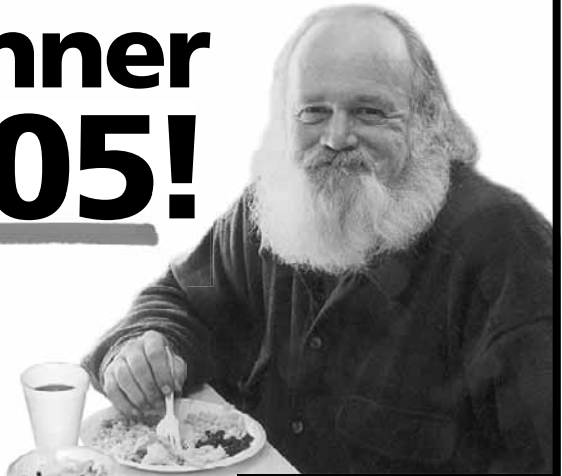
In a statement Wednesday, president and publisher Jonathan Slevin outlined goals to reach new audiences via digital, broadcast, print and wireless media. Slevin said achieving those goals requires "significant staff reduction" of the paper's 370 employees.

Plans include expanding the paper's Theconservatives.com site, a subscription-based briefing service, and its morning radio program through syndication with Talk Radio Network.

The papers says in the first quarter of 2010, the local print edition will be distributed for free to some federal government offices and other "key institutions." **(AP)**

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MEAL TICKET

Local



KATHERINE FREY/TWP

The AeroTrain will operate underground on 3.78 miles of track at Dulles Airport.

Dulles AeroTrain Likely To Start Running in Jan.

Sterling, Va.

Dulles International Airport's new gate-to-terminal train service, the AeroTrain, has passed a final phase of testing by its manufacturer and will probably begin operating next month, the airport authority said Wednesday.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority had hoped to begin using the system before the holiday travel period but was forced to delay it in late October. The authority cited "testing delays" on the part of Sumitomo Corp. of America, which shares a contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to design, build and operate the system.

In a board meeting Wednesday, James E. Bennett, the authority's chief executive, announced that train service should begin in January, although a launch date has

not been set, he said.

The AeroTrain will replace the airport's 1960s-era mobile lounges that carry passengers between the terminal and gates.

"It's got a lot of moving parts. You've got to make sure they are operating and dependable."

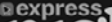
— JAMES E. BENNETT, CEO OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

They must yield to taxiing aircraft and other obstacles, slowing their trips. Airport officials say the train, which will run underground on 3.78 miles of track, will significantly ease passenger movement through the airport.

SHOLNN FREEMAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	8-2-9
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	8-9-6
Mid-day Pick 4	3-2-1-5
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	0-4-1-1
Match 5 (Tues.)	8-11-16-29-36 (25)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	3-2-0
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	4-4-2
Mid-day Pick 4	7-7-4-1
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	9-4-5-9
Mid-day Cash 5	16-20-21-23-34
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	2-10-18-19-23

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	0-8-1
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	3-2-8
Mid-day DC 4	6-9-9-5
Evening DC 4 (Tues.)	4-7-0-9
Mid-day D.C. Five	7-9-2-6-2
Evening D.C. Five (Tues.)	7-6-7-1-8
Daily 6 (Tues.)	9-16-21-24-29-34 (8)

Multi-State Games

Mega Millions (Tues.)	17-30-39-52-53
Mega Ball	21

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

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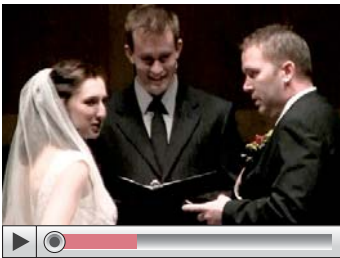
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The Feed

MUST-SEE ITEMS FROM AROUND THE WEB



Real-Time Update

1 Talk about life streaming: Maryland resident Dana Hanna couldn't wait to change his relationship status on Facebook to "married," so he did it during the nuptials. In a YouTube video that aired on CNN Wednesday, Hanna surprised everyone — including his bride — by pulling out his phone at a critical moment.

"If a woman's feet move when she laughs, it is one of the most powerful signals that she likes you."

2 — **GEOFFREY BEATTIE**, a University of Manchester psychologist, shares a finding from his research on feet, in an article published Wednesday on Telegraph.co.uk. Beattie said many people don't know that subtle foot movements reveal their emotions.



Making Scents

3 These days, it seems like Sean "Diddy" Combs pops up everywhere from movies to fashion shows. To sell his I Am King cologne, the hip-hop mogul is tapping an unusual market: the Home Shopping Network. In a video available online, MSNBC's Willie Geist breaks down Combs' salesman schtick. Plus, find out why one HSN host "truly stands in awe" of Diddy.



Pot or Not?

4 Just hours after a home video of Marilyn Monroe allegedly smoking marijuana in the late 1950s surfaced on the Web, Gawker blogger Azaria Jagger reflected that "there's something appropriate about a video of Marilyn Monroe using drugs surfacing now, when a flock of Marilyn-worshipping floozies flip around Hollywood, leaving scandalous videos everywhere they go." But Jagger also says there is reason to believe the "original romantic trainwreck" was just smoking a cigarette.



Play the Memory Game

5 The head-butt. No soccer fan will need his or her memory jogged to remember French legend Zinedine Zidane ending his career with a disgraceful exit from the 2006 World Cup final. Three years later, the moment is still kicked around, but where does it fit in a decade that includes Michael Phelps' highs in the pool and Ron Artest's low in the stands? Yahoo! makes sense of a decade of sports and lets you vote on the best athlete of the "oughts."

Find these links and more at expressnightout.com/thefeed

“I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart.”

Commentary

Woods Not Alone With His Infidelity

If Tiger Woods had avoided the scandalous episode that now envelops him and has forced him to plead for privacy, he would have become the great exception.

While Tiger is the first professional athlete to be smoked out quite this way in the Internet age, he nonetheless joins a club that includes plenty of other top athletes of his generation in American history. Comedian Chris Rock undoubtedly put it best when he said, “A man is only as faithful as his options.” And few men have the sexual options of the most famous athletes in the world. Even if we confine the conversation to the most famous American athletes of



By
Michael
Wilbon

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP



Tiger Woods said he let his family down with his transgressions in a Web post on Wednesday. He didn't elaborate and again called for privacy amid the media scrutiny.

Woods Offers a Public Apology

Internet statement comes amid latest charges of infidelity

Golf

Tiger Woods said he let his family down with “transgressions” he regrets “with all of my heart,” and that he will deal with his personal life behind closed doors. His statement Wednesday follows a cover story in *Us Weekly* magazine that reports a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claims she had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

“I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves,” Woods said on his Web site. “I am not without faults and I am far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behavior and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be shared by us alone.”

Woods did not offer details of any alleged relationship. “I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart,” he said.

The Call

“Hey, it's, uh, it's Tiger. I need you to do me a huge favor. Um, can you please, uh, take your name off your phone? My wife went through my phone and, uh, may be calling you. If you can, please take your name off that and, um, and what do you call it just have it as a number on the voicemail, just have it as your telephone number. That's it, OK. You gotta do this for me. Huge. Quickly. All right. Bye.”

— A VOICE MAIL TO GRUBBS RELEASED BY *US* MAGAZINE.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS COULD NOT CONFIRM WOODS WAS THE CALLER.

His statement came one day after the Florida Highway Patrol closed its investigation into the accident — without Woods ever speaking to state troopers. He was charged with careless driving, which carries a \$164 fine and four points on his driving record.

The cocktail waitress, Jaimee Grubbs, told the magazine she met Woods at a Las Vegas nightclub the week after the 2007 Masters — two months before Woods' wife, Elin, gave birth to their first child. Grubbs claims to have proof in 300 text messages.

About three hours before Woods' statement, the magazine published what it said was a voicemail — pro-

vided by Grubbs — that Woods left on her phone on Nov. 24, three days before his early morning car crash outside his home in Florida.

Since the accident, Woods has not appeared in public and has spoken only three times through his Web site, although this was his longest posting.

“Although I am a well-known person and have made my career as a professional athlete, I have been dismayed to realize the full extent of what tabloid scrutiny really means,” Woods said. “For the last week, my family and I have been hounded to expose intimate details of our personal lives.”

DOUG FERGUSON (AP)



\$3,200

The amount of property damage **Tiger Woods** caused. He also wasn't wearing a seat belt and was driving erratically outside his Florida home before crashing into a tree, according to a final report released Wednesday. The six-page report describes only the accident and does not include statements from Woods, his wife, Elin Nordegren, or witnesses. It also included 105 photos of the accident scene, showing damage to both front sides of the Cadillac Escalade, and the windows on the back passenger doors were broken. (AP)

The point here isn't to condone Tiger's transgressions; it's to say we need a little context.

their times, we're still talking about a list that has to include Babe Ruth, Joe Louis, Joe DiMaggio, Muhammad Ali, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Tom Brady and Alex Rodriguez.

The point here isn't to condone Tiger's transgressions; it's to say we need a little context.

Virtue in sports is whether you can hit a jumper as time expires in the playoffs or hit 50 home runs in a season or sink a putt on the 72nd hole to win the Masters.

Woods is finding out is that it's a new day, one where absolutely nothing is kept in house.

But he can take professional solace, perhaps, in the fact those among the greatest ever at the games they mastered played right through the embarrassment and ridicule, and once on the other side seemed really no worse for wear. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Caps' Fehr Finds Scoring Touch

Youngster steps up his play while team battles injury bug

Pro Hockey

Forward Brooks Laich leaned against his locker room stall and began answering the questions on everybody's mind: Can the Capitals survive for two games with star Alex Ovechkin suspended for a "reckless" hit in the team's win over Carolina last Monday, and, if so, what would happen should Ovie get seriously hurt one of these days?

"Well, everything Eric Fehr's been touching is going in the net

right now," he said with a laugh. And though he was only kidding when mentioning a player with 22 career goals in the same vein as the two-time defending NHL MVP, over the



past few weeks Fehr has been every bit as valuable to Washington as his more famous teammate.

With the Capitals going through an injury epidemic of sorts in November, Fehr has found himself on the team's top lines. Accordingly, he has escalated his produc-



The Capitals' Eric Fehr and Brooks Laich celebrate a goal Fehr scored.

tion, scoring four goals in the last three games heading into Thursday night's matchup against Florida at Verizon Center. And with six of his

seven goals this season coming in the past month, Washington's brass thinks the 2003 first-round pick may be living up to his potential.

Fehr cited injuries to both shoulder blades for his sluggish October. But inconsistency plagued Fehr's first full season with the Caps a year ago, when he had just 25 points in 61 games. Now, though, he's taken advantage of another chance to make a big impression.

"I have a lot more confidence, and when you're on the ice and you get that one opportunity, it seems like it only takes one opportunity to score," Fehr said. "Pucks just seem to follow you around the ice."

MARK GIANNOTTO

DEFIANCE



Alex Ovechkin says he isn't going to change his style because of a two-game suspension. When asked about his penalty for a knee-to-knee hit, the Caps star said Wednesday it might make him "more angry." Coach Bruce Boudreau also backed off his criticism of Ovechkin, saying he is "satisfied with the way he plays." (AP)

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Forget baby steps. Since landing the gig as co-host of ABC's "The View," actress Sherri Shepherd is clearing hurdles at a run these days. Once the sidekick to Jamie Foxx' love interest on "The Jamie Foxx" show, the comedic mother of one has scored a series of her own. Plus, sometime after her son was off to bed and between taping the two shows, she added "author" to her growing list of titles with "Permission Slips: Every Women's Guide to Giving Herself a Break." Shepherd is on a book tour that stops in D.C. this Friday.

Why this book at this point in your life?
I said my first week on "The View" I didn't know if the Earth was round or flat, because I was nervous. So many people e-mailed me. My Web site crashed and everybody said I should be fired. But, I had a lot of women e-mailing saying, "We understood what

you meant," and I had the women here at "The View" who were like, "We support you." And I realized, we gotta let stuff go.

And by "we," you mean women?
Yeah, we as women take on so much. We take on a lot of guilt about what we're doing and what we're not doing, if we're doing it enough, if we're doing it on time. ... I just felt like we needed to give ourselves permission to give ourselves a break.

The ol' Mars vs. Venus?
You can take your kid to the park and he can fall. A man will go, "Did you hurt yourself? You aight. Get up, dust yourself off and get on back up there." We go, "Oh, my goodness! Did somebody see it? Are we bad mothers? What did I do wrong?" And we'll play those tapes round and round. It'll be 10 years from now and we'll be going, "You know what? It's cause



STEVE FENN/ABC

* Sherri Shepherd

ACTRESS, COMEDIAN, AUTHOR

you fell at the park."

What about childless women?
They gotta go, "I got a plan, but there's God's plan and there's my plan. And sometimes they

don't line up."

Why and when did you decide you needed a break?
I guess when having a child and hitting 40. There's something that

“We as women take on so much. We take on a lot of guilt about what we’re doing and ... not doing.”

happens. In your 20s, you really want everybody to like you. You're insecure. In your 30s, you still want people to like you. It's something about when you hit 40. You're like, "I don't care. Get over it."

When's the last time you paused for a second?

I was invited to Diddy's party, and I had picked out my dress and everything. Then my son said, "Mommy, take off your eyes" — which are my fake lashes — "I wanna be with you." And I looked down at him and was like, "You know what? I need to be with my son."

DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

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Cheap Trick Rams Head Live, Jan. 23, \$44; 800-551-7328.

Amanda Blank Rock and Roll Hotel, Jan. 30, \$16; 877-725-8849.

Cheech & Chong Warner Theatre, April 10, \$39.50-\$49.50; 877-598-8696.

WSC describes the dark comic downfall of a tragic heroine

STAGE | Men want her. Women ...well, they want her, too. This despite the fact that the paramours of Lulu, the titular and titillating femme fatale at the center of Washington Shakespeare Company's latest offering, tend to end up dead.

But in Nicholas Wright's adaptation of Frank Wedekind's "Lulu," suitors line up, erupting in paroxysms of lust at some small, sensual movement from her. They tempt

her with a cushy lifestyle and grant her various nicknames, but eventually join the pile of bodies on a couch just offstage.

Lulu (Sara Barker) begins the play as "Popsy," so dubbed by her much older husband, who commissions a portrait of her by Eduard (James Finley), a young painter who becomes smitten and labels her his "Eve." Lulu becomes a widow when her husband catches the pair, and so begins a string of brief and violent romantic attachments.

Despite the body count, director Christopher Henley keeps the first half's pace moving in a darkly comedic manner. The staging con-



Lulu (Sara Barker) casts a deadly spell over a series of unfortunate men.

tains elements of French farce, as does the use of makeup on the male characters.

But ultimately, the play is a tragedy: Lulu's sad history is sketched out briefly and involves forced child prostitution by a man (Kim Curtis), who may be her father. And given that Lulu is at last driven by poverty to prostitution in late 19th-century London, we know it's not going to end well for her. ERIN TROMPETER

→ *Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Arlington; through Dec. 13, \$26.50-\$31.50; 800-494-8497; washingtonshakespeare.org.*

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4 FRI ★ Family Night: Rocknoceros

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5 SAT ★ NSO Prelude

National Symphony Orchestra members play Beethoven, Dvořák, and Ysaye.

IN THE THEATER LAB

6 SUN ★ Pepe Reyes y su Mariachi Monumental de Cuscatlán

The band excites audiences with its infectious traditional Mariachi music.

IN THE THEATER LAB

7 MON ★ Norwegian Visions

Double bassist Ingebrigt Håker Flaten and saxophonist/flutonetist Håkon Kornstad are up-and-coming jazz musicians.

Created in 1995, Norwegian Visions is a cultural partnership program initiated by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8 TUE ★ U.S. Army Blues

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9 WED ★ U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players

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In its 31st season, this ensemble is composed of students from more than 22 area high schools.

11 FRI ★ Beltway Brass Quintet

Led by Zack Smith, the group plays jazzy and jaunty arrangements of holiday favorites.

12 SAT ★ Gospel Celebration: WPAS Children of the Gospel Choir

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13 SUN ★ DC Youth Orchestra

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14 MON ★ MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS!

The 36th anniversary of this holiday tradition in which tuba, sousaphone, and euphonium players from around D.C. play traditional Christmas music led by Harvey Phillips. Grab your instrument and arrive for rehearsal at 3 p.m.

15 TUE ★ Pirai Vaca

The Bolivian guitarist has won competitions all around the world.

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16 WED ★ Encore Chorale

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— The Washington Post



Sebastian LaCause, Timothy Ware, Addi McDaniel. Photo by Scott Suchman

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← Some members of Pelican played in a grindcore band, but they developed a more open, complex sound with the new band, while retaining the aggression and speed of metal.

we had written seven songs and ditched the first three songs that we wrote. We ended up ditching the fourth song after that show, too."

But with four critically acclaimed albums now under its belt, including October's "What We All Come to Need," Pelican has gotten to a place where the musicians' creative process is more collaborative and detail-oriented than ever before, a touch that can be seen in the precision of the latest album, according to de Brauw.

"We become more and more analytical and careful about our songs, and the songs all have an internal logic to them," he explains. "The longer we play together, the more comfortable we become with each other and more used to how each other voice ideas and how to play off each other and intuitively grasp what our place in the song is once we start hearing parts come together."

And though their sound is certainly "aggressive," it's also "very humanist and open," a feeling that is aided by Pelican's lack of a singer, de Brauw says. With that barrier broken between the band and its audience, listeners can have a more fulfilling live experience, he insists.

"We tend to be very physical when we play and have a real guttural emotional reaction to what we're putting out — every audience member reads it very differently," de Brauw adds. "We'll have some audiences where people will be thrashing and head-banging and moshing, and other audiences that are equally appreciative but will close their eyes and fold their hands and let the music wash over them. A wide range of responses can be expected, and all of them are valid." ROXANA HADADI

→ *The Rock and Roll Hotel, 1353 H St. NE; Fri., 8:30 p.m.; \$12 before, \$14 day of show; 202-388-7625.*

METAL WITH MEAT

Pelican soars on a combination of churning metal and dreamy atmosphere

MUSIC | For instrumental metal band Pelican, getting lumped with Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and Metallica may be a bit strange, considering that those three are all mainstream bands with massive commercial success. But even weirder is the fact that the four-piece band joined those legendary groups not on a concert lineup or compilation album, but on a burger joint's menu.

"There's this local restaurant called Kuma's Burger in Chicago, and though it's higher-end gourmet as far as burgers go, all of their burgers are named after metal bands," guitarist Trevor de Brauw explains. "When they introduced the Pelican burger, it had anchovies on it and no one wanted to buy it, so they re-released it to celebrate the release of [our] new album ['What We All Come to Need']. I think it had scallops, lardons — all kinds of goofy stuff."

“IT DID SORT OF TAKE AWHILE TO ... GET OUR FOOTING, BECAUSE WE WEREN'T USED TO PLAYING STUFF THIS SLOW OR ARRANGEMENTS THIS COMPLEX.”

But while some of the band's members — such as the vegan de Brauw and fellow guitarist Laurent Schroeder-Lebec, who eats fish but no meat — couldn't taste the Kobe beef burger with garlic white wine sauce and a Parmesan crisp, they appreciated the gesture.

"They had a listening party for the record, so it was very thoughtful," de Brauw says. "I just wish it had been vegan."

It's that kind of niche attention, though, that has followed the band — which plays the Rock and Roll Hotel on Thursday night — since its creation in 2001. That was when de Brauw, Schroeder-Lebec and drummer Larry Herweg, who played together in local grindcore band Tusk, decided they wanted to branch out from the genre. The trio ended up starting Pelican as

Without a lead singer between the band and the audience, listeners can have a more fulfilling experience.

a side project as a way to experiment with lengthier, weightier sounds that they couldn't create with Tusk, de Brauw says.

"There was a sense of confines, in terms of things having to be discordant or fast or aggressive, and we were looking for something that was a little more spacious and open," he says. "We started jamming and Larry's brother [Bryan] joined us on bass, and it was a fun project to write different kinds

of songs with. So as time went on and we started playing shows, it started picking up momentum at a much greater rate than Tusk, so we turned it into our main focus."

But it took the band a long time — a full year — before it felt comfortable enough with the style to actually get to the point of performing in public, according to de Brauw. Though every group, regardless of genre, develops at a different rate, Pelican wanted to make sure it had sufficiently mastered its new sound before showing audiences what the group was about.

"It sort of did take awhile to ... get our footing, because we weren't used to playing stuff this slow or arrangements this complex," de Brauw says. "I think by the time we had played out live,

Accent on Psychobilly

Danish band the Nekromantix fuses horror-flick pop with hot-rod rockabilly

MUSIC | Frontman Kim Nekroman of the Nekromantix wasn't sure what to expect when his Danish psychobilly band signed on to support industrial-metal legend and moviemaker Rob Zombie during his current tour. But thankfully, that uncertainty has led to some pleasant surprises, Nekroman says.

"It's always weird going on support tours, because obviously most of the people there are going to be there to see the headliner, but I had expected a way more metal-oriented audience, and I was

surprised to see that Rob Zombie's audience is more like the horror-movie fan, the new horror-movie geek," Nekroman mused. "I thought it would be a massive amount of head-banging, long-haired dudes — it's not."

And since no one has been "booing us out and throwing tomatoes or rotten eggs," the Nekromantix have been able to play a set list that includes a "little bit from almost every album," Nekroman says. That means the sold-out crowd at the 9:30 Club Saturday night could hear tracks from as far back as 1989, when Nekroman formed the band after quitting the Danish navy.

"I was going to all these festivals all over Europe to watch other bands, and after awhile I was just



After 20 years of playing psychobilly, Denmark's Nekromantix are still going strong.

kind of like, 'Hey, I could do this — I could get paid to travel around the world,'" Nekroman says.

"I learned myself how to play [the bass] and then I drew up the logo and thought, I'm almost there;

I just need a couple of songs."

Though Nekroman has been its sole constant member for the past 20 years, the band has released

"I was going to all these festivals ... to watch other bands, and after awhile I was just kind of like, 'Hey, I can do this.'"

albums every three years or so and plans to finish up its next release after the tour wraps up, with a goal for a February drop date, he said. Nekroman doesn't see anything slowing the band down.

"Over the years, it obviously has become a career and a lifestyle, so there's a lot of sacrifices compared to living a normal life with a 9-to-5 job and yadda, yadda yadda," he says.

"But I guess there's more good than there's bad, because I'm still doing it." ROXANA HADADI

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sat., 7 p.m.; sold out; 202-265-0930, 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

Visions of a Diaspora

The Washington Jewish Film Festival ranges far and wide

FILM | The 20th annual Washington Jewish Film Festival, featuring more than 60 films from 20 countries, begins with a screening of "A Matter of Size," the story of four overweight Israelis who take up sumo wrestling.

If the movie sounds quirky and fun, it is — but along the way, the foursome come to terms with their weights and find a world in which they're respected.

Along with standard fare like two shorts programs and plenty of documentaries, the festival features Patrick Swayze in one of his



"Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist" tells the story of the great comics artist.

last roles. "Jump" tells the story of photographer Philippe Halsman, who in 1932 was charged in the

death of his father during a hiking accident.

"The Spirit" may have bombed

at the box office, but don't let it stop you from learning about its creator and the invention of the first graphic novel in "Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist," screening Sunday.

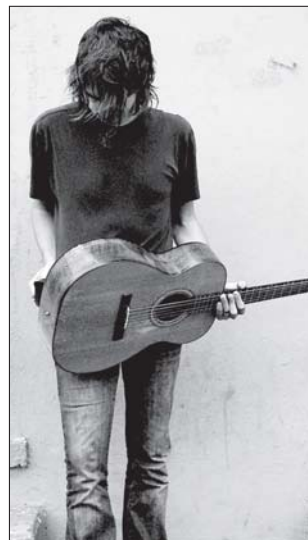
The close of the festival will be marked by a screening of "The Gift to Stalin" by Rustem Abdrashev. Filmed in Kazakhstan, it's the story of a Jewish orphan sent into exile during Stalin's regime. Along the way, he loses his grandfather, the only family he had left, before trying to fit in with a surrogate family in a remote Kazakh village.

After the screening at the Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater, celebrate the third night of Hanukkah with the festival's closing Hanukkah party.

JASON KOEBLER

→ Through Dec. 13; \$10 per film, opening and closing nights, \$25; 202-777-3231, washingtondcjcc.org.

FOLK ROCK | HOMEBOY



SIGH: Luke Brindley is a local treasure. The singer-songwriter with the understandably large female following plays his own club, Jammin' Java, on Thursday with Peter Bradley Adams and Rosi Golan.

Entertainment | WeekendPass



COURTESY CHILD ABUSE

Musical complexity, weirdness and fun are the watchwords of the Brooklyn progressive-punk trio with the offensive name.

Sounds So Surreal

Yes, there is a band called **Child Abuse** and, no, well — we'll let them explain ...

MUSIC | You're probably wondering about the name.

According to Brooklyn prog-punk three-piece Child Abuse, the band's name came about innocently enough when founders Luke Calzonetti and Oran Canfield discovered early on that their chosen instruments sounded sufficiently imposing when pushed to their limits.

"When we started, Oran was playing a real small drum set and I was playing this crappy Casio keyboard, which I'm still playing, and it seemed really descriptive," said Calzonetti. "It was like this real brutal children's music."

Using atypical axes and channeling Captain Beefheart, the group makes meticulously craft-

Using atypical axes, the group crafts meltdowns that are akin to a tot's conniption fit.

ed meltdowns that are the sonic equivalent of a tot's conniption fit. But Calzonetti admits the group's sketchy moniker has lost them a few high-profile performance opportunities.

"I don't think I realized the weight behind the name in terms of the varying responses we have gotten," he says. "But there's no escaping it now. It would be a cop-out if we changed the name."

Child Abuse is preparing to release the follow-up to its bombastic 2007 debut, which was rounded out by bassist Tim Dahl. Calzonetti says the new one — recorded by chance at an aban-

doned Catholic school — is more song-based but retains the band's trademark twists and turns and absurdist spirit.

"There's nothing clear-cut about our music," says Calzonetti. "It's more surreal than anything. It's complex music but not so complex that you can't find any fun in it."

The group's electrified musical fusion comes as no surprise. Prior to banding together in 2004, Calzonetti was involved in more straightforward pop projects — albeit with his trusty toy keyboard in tow — and Canfield and Dahl pursued jazz careers, with Canfield playing regularly with greats such as Stanley Clarke and Yusef Lateef.

JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St. NW; with *Orphan*, Sun., 9 p.m., \$10; 202-667-4490, blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

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Indies&Arties

Not-So-Lonely Hearts



Runners Ray Zahab, Charlie Engle, and Kevin Lin at the starting line in Senegal.

Wild Running

Local movie screens are full of nutty people, but none quite so unfathomable as the three fellows who “star” in the documentary “Running the Sahara.” Executive producer Matt Damon narrates this story of three ultramarathoners who log 50 miles a day over a 100-day span across the Sahara Desert. But the film isn’t just about extreme competition; it’s a thoughtful look at the clean water crisis in Africa and a call to action, and you don’t even have to jog in 110-degree heat to lend a hand. Ultramarathoner Charlie Engle will host a Q&A session after the film’s Dec. 9 screening.

→ BETHESDA ROW CINEMA, 7235 WOODMONT AVE., BETHESDA, WED., 7:30 P.M., \$25 IN ADVANCE, \$35 AT THE DOOR; 301-652-7273 NEHST.COM. (BETHESDA)

Best Storytime Ever

Take the kids to something compelling, educational and un-holidayish this weekend. As part of its celebration of Osamu Tezuka, the Freer Gallery hosts a kamishibai performance. Kamishibai, or “paper drama,” is a type of storytelling using performance and colorful illustrations. Performer Yassan keeps this folk-art tradition alive and melds old with new by paying tribute to Tezuka, “the father of anime” using kamishibai.

→ FREER GALLERY, JEFFERSON DRIVE & 12TH STREET SW, FRI.-SUN., FREE; 202-633-1000, ASIA.SI.EDU. (SMITHSONIAN)

On a new live DVD, Cheap Trick gives ‘Sgt. Pepper’ a zingy power-pop boost

DVD | “The essence of the Beatles with the Cheap Trick sound” is how singer Robin Zander describes the band’s 40th-anniversary performance of “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” in a bonus interview on Cheap Trick’s recent “Sgt. Pepper Live” DVD (\$15.98). Dedicated to “Robin’s Dad,” the DVD captures the power-pop veterans at a 2007 benefit show, with all concert and DVD proceeds going to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Performing the album live required more than a little help from their friends, so Cheap Trick recruited original “Sgt. Pepper” recording engineer Geoff Emerick, the New York Philharmonic, an Indian sitar band and, for “Within You Without You,” Beat-



Cheap Trick is known for its acerbic pop, but the Beatles’ influence is palpable.

mania vet Rob Laufer. (Laufer’s resemblance to the late George Harrison is downright spooky.) While the woodwinds for “When I’m Sixty-Four” are spot-on, Ian Ball of Gomez brings unneeded vocal snark to a sweet song, in contrast to Joan Osborne, who seems

to be having the time of her life on “Lovely Rita.”

But it’s primarily Zander who’s trying not to sing out of key and mostly succeeds despite some ironic moments like sporting a contorted rock face while singing, “I used to be an angry young man.”

His best song may be “She’s Leaving Home,” where it’s easy to recognize Lennon’s influence on Zander’s vocal style. Drummer Bun E. Carlos gets a big moment during the “Abbey Road” encore of “Golden

Singer Robin Zander calls the show, “The essence of the Beatles with the Cheap Trick sound.”

Slumbers/Carry That Weight/The End” — and dig the Beatles font on his drum kit)

Guitarist/raconteur Rick Nielsen saves his best moments for the bonus interview, although all four members have interesting thoughts as to which band should recreate Cheap Trick’s opus, “Dream Police,” for its 30th anniversary.

PAUL STELTER

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST’S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK’S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 | The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Despite the melodrama, there’s enough wolf whistle in this sexy, scary romp to please anyone.

MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN

2 | The Blind Side

Grounded in the direct, disarming truth of the characters’ experience, the movie has a straightforward lack of cheap sentiment. ANN HORNADAY

3 | 2012

Director Roland Emmerich fleshes out pseudo-history with pseudoscience and throws hundreds of millions of dollars at it. DAN KOIS

4 | Old Dogs

John Travolta and Robin Williams phone it in for this alleged comedy that gives new meaning to the term “lackluster.” JOHN ANDERSON

5 | Disney’s A Christmas Carol

The holiday classic gets a manic makeover that is antic, scary, sweet and, in the end, slightly soulless.

MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN

6 | Ninja Assassin

Ten minutes after you leave the movie, all the battles will have blended in your memory into a ceaseless muddle of blood, screams and swords. DAN KOIS

7 | Planet 51

This animated movie in which a human astronaut (Dwayne Johnson) gets stuck on a planet of little green men is cute, but it’s no great beauty. MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN



HURTS SO GOOD: Kristen Stewart’s Bella suffers in “The Twilight Saga: New Moon.”

8 | Precious

This movie surely qualifies as the most painful, poetic and improbably beautiful film of the year. MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN

9 | The Fantastic Mr. Fox

A self-consciously quirky animated film that’s another wry, carefully composed bibelot in Wes

Anderson’s cabinet of wonders. ANN HORNADAY

10 | The Men Who Stare at Goats

For much of this genial if frustratingly shallow movie, viewers will no doubt try to figure out where real-life wackiness ends and artistic license begins. ANN HORNADAY

The Scene

Sound

→ THURSDAY

9:30 Club: "Viva Christmas!" El Vez and Los Straitjackets, the Lovely Elvettes, the Hall Monitors, 7 p.m., \$20.

Birchmere: Hot Tuna, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Radio 4, Title Tracks, 8 p.m., sold out.

Blues Alley: Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

Bohemian Caverns: Chad Carter, 8 & 10 p.m., \$20.

DC9: Russian Circles, Young Widows, the Phantom Family Halo, 8:30 p.m., \$14.

Iota: Pet Parade, Type Fighter, 9 p.m., \$10.

Jaxx: In This Moment, In Fear and Faith, Motionless in White, 6:30 p.m., \$18.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage: The Berntsons, 6 p.m., free.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Land of Talk, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

State Theatre: John Brown's Body, Lionize, 9 p.m., \$15.

Wolf Trap: Schooner Fare, 8 p.m., \$25.

The Red and the Black: The Von Ehricks, 9 p.m., \$6.

Twins Jazz: Killer Stilts, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., \$15.

Wolf Trap: Schooner Fare, 8 p.m., \$25.

→ FRIDAY

9:30 Club: Saosin, P.O.S., Innerparty-system, Eye Alaska, 6 p.m., \$15.

Birchmere: Four Bitchin' Babes, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: Bilal, 9 p.m., \$20; Sorted with DJ Stereo Faith, 9:30 p.m., \$7 (backstage).

Blues Alley: Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.

Bohemian Caverns: Heidi Martin, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., \$20.

DC9: Liberation Dance Party, 9 p.m., \$7.

Iota: Richard Buckner, 9 p.m., \$14.

Jammin' Java: Graham Colton, Michael Pearsall, 7 p.m., \$10; Fools and Horses, Memphis 59, Laura Tsaggari, 10 p.m., \$10.

3 Sweet Ride

Shareholders questioning CEOs' salaries, uncomfortable fat cats, whistle-blowers who fight tooth and nail for the last laugh — nothing says "2009" like a play from

1953. Howard Teichmann and George S. Kaufman's "Solid Gold Cadillac" is an instructive farce about corporate malfeasance and one humble woman (played by Nancy Robinette, left) who isn't going to take it anymore. Get current at Studio Theatre through Jan. 10.

→ *Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; through Jan. 10, \$56-\$63; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.*



top stops WEEKEND

1 Merry Navidad

It just isn't Christmas unless a Mexican-American Elvis impersonator and his sexy backup dancers celebrate/make a mockery of all that we hold near and dear about the season. Los Angeles performer and artist El Vez rolls into town for a 9:30 Club stop on his "¡Viva Christmas!" tour, bringing music, color, light and irreverence to the stage, along with the Lovely Elvettes. He'll be joined by Los Straitjackets; the Hall Monitors open.

→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Thu., 7 p.m., \$20; 800-955-5566, 930.com. (U St.-Cardozo)*

4 Sing We Clear

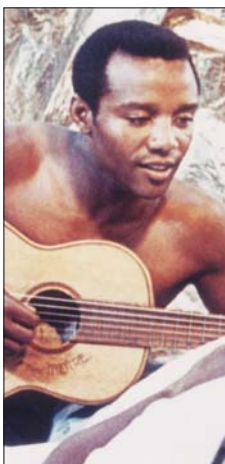
Be the star on your own Christmas tree this year at Wolf Trap's 41st Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long on Sunday. The Filene Center invites one and all to raise voice in song with direction and accompaniment from the United States Marine Band and conductor Maj. Jason K. Fettig.

→ *Wolf Trap, Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, Va.; Sun., 4-5:30 p.m., free; 703-255-1900, wolftrap.org. (Metro shuttles not running for this event)*

5 Alternative Title: 'Don't Look Back'

"Black Orpheus" is a delirious tightrope walk — or samba dance — between high art and high kitsch. Fifty years on, Marcel Camus' overheated, sensuality-drenched retelling of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice set during Brazilian Carnival is as nutty as ever, but a screening of the film at the National Gallery of Art tips the balance to the art side.

→ *National Gallery of Art, 400 Constitution Ave. NW; Sun., 5 p.m., free; 202-842-6799, nga.gov. (Archives-Navy Memorial)*



2 Getting Physical

Dance is hard on the body and takes a good deal of mental effort. CityDance Ensemble makes explicit the stress, strenuousness and strength involved in the art form with "Crush," a night of mixed repertoire including "Wishes of the Sailor," based on artistic director Paul Gordon Emerson and dancer Kathryn Pilkington's work with Iraqi refugees in the Middle East, and pieces by Meisha Bosma and Christopher K. Morgan.

→ *Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda; Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m., \$20; 301-581-5100, strathmore.org, citydance.net. (Grosvenor-Strathmore)*





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TheScene*Continued from E9*

Jaxx: Fight Cloud, Infamous, Less Than We Know, Virginia Valentine, Shrine of the Silver Monkey, 6 p.m., \$10.

Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage: Rocknoceros, 6 p.m., free.

The Red and the Black: Nightmare of You, Destry, 9 p.m., \$10.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Pelican, Black Cobra, Disappears, 9:30 p.m., \$14.

State Theatre: Future, See-I, Poor Man's Lobster, 8 p.m., \$17.

Twins Jazz: Michael Thomas, 9 & 11 p.m., \$20.

Velvet Lounge: Detox Retox, Private Dancer, 9 p.m., \$8.

Warner Theatre: Chris Brown, New Boyz, 8 p.m., \$66.

Wolf Trap: Schooner Fare, 8 p.m., \$25.

→ SATURDAY

9:30 Club: Rob Zombie, Nekromantix, Captain Clegg and the Night Creatures, 7 p.m., sold out.

Birchmere: Four Bitchin' Babes, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: The Big Pink, Crystal Antlers, 9 p.m., \$13.

George Mason University Center for the Arts: Doc Watson, David Holt, Richard Watson, 8 p.m., \$21-\$42.

Iota: The U-Liners, Ruthie and the Wranglers, 9 p.m., \$12.

Jammin' Java: Person L, John Nolan, Brian Bonz, 9 p.m., \$10.

Jaxx: A December to Remember, 1 p.m., \$15.

The Red and the Black: Free Lobster Buffet, Hot Coffee, Mississippi, Toll Carom, 9 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Ra Ra Rasputin, Baywa, Tennis System, Laughing Man, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

*Continued on E12***DANCE | STEP KIDS**

CARLA AND COMPANY: Carla & Company engages the audience — children and adults alike — in a Saturday and Sunday stint at Dance Place involving dance, song and spoken word. The local troupe, alongside the Dance Place Step Team, offers two new works, "Songs for My Youth — Dances for Daddy," a tribute to Carla Perlo's late father; and "The Perfect World." One child's ticket is offered free with every adult ticket, so show the little ones the non-"Nutcracker" side of dance this season.

venues

→ 9:30 CLUB: 815 V ST. NW; 202-265-0930, 930.COM.

→ BIRCHMERE: 3701 MT. VERNON AVE., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-7500, BIRCHMERE.COM.

→ BLACK CAT: 1811 14TH ST. NW; 202-

667-7960, BLACKCATDC.COM.

→ BLUES ALLEY: 1073 WISCONSIN AVE. NW; 202-337-4141, BLUESALLEY.COM.

→ BOHEMIAN CAVERNS: 2001 IITH ST. NW; 202-299-0800, BOHEMIANCAVERNS.COM.

→ DC NINE: 1940 9TH ST. NW; 202-483-5000, DCNINE.COM.

→ GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS: 4400 UNI-

VERSITY DRIVE, FAIRFAX, VA.; 888-945-2468, GMU.EDU/CFA.

→ IOTA: 2832 WILSON BLVD., ARLINGTON; 703-522-8340, IOTACLUBANDCAFE.COM.

→ JAMMIN' JAVA: 227 MAPLE AVE. E., VIENNA, VA.; 703-255-1566, JAMMINJAVA.COM.

→ JAXX: 6355 ROLLING ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA.; 703-569-5940, JAXXROXX.COM.

→ KENNEDY CENTER: 2700 F ST. NW; 800-444-1324, KENNEDY-CENTER.ORG.

→ THE RED AND THE BLACK: 1212 H ST. NE; 202-399-3201, REDANDBLACKBAR.COM.

→ ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL: 1353 H ST. NE; 202-388-7625, ROCKANDROLLHOTELDC.COM.

→ STATE THEATRE: 220 N. WASHINGTON, FALLS CHURCH; 703-237-0300,

THESTATETHEATRE.COM.

→ TWINS JAZZ: 344 U ST. NW; 202-234-0072, TWINSJAZZ.COM.

→ VELVET LOUNGE: 915 U ST. NW; 202-462-3213, VELVETLOUNGEDC.COM.

→ WARNER THEATRE: 513 13TH ST. NW; 800-551-7328, WARNERTHEATRE.COM.

→ WOLF TRAP: 1645 TRAP ROAD, VIENNA, VA.; 703-255-1900, WOLFTRAP.ORG.

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TheScene

Continued from E11

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue: Esperanza Spalding Quartet, 8 p.m., \$27.
State Theatre: Johnny Winter, 9 p.m., \$26.
Twins Jazz: Michael Thomas, 9 & 11 p.m., \$20.
Velvet Lounge: Outpost, Screen Vinyl Image, Blue Sausage Infant, 10 p.m., \$8.

→ SUNDAY

9:30 Club: Cross Canadian Ragweed, Ha Ha Tonka, 7 p.m., \$25.
Birchmere: Norman Brown, Mindi Abair, 7:30 p.m., \$49.50.
Black Cat: Child Abuse, Orphan, 9 p.m., \$10 (backstage).
Blues Alley: Marion Meadows, 8 & 10 p.m., \$25.
Iota: Josh Hoge, Tony Luca, Matt Lowell, 8:30 p.m., \$12.
Jammin' Java: Mary Fahl, 7 p.m., \$10; Todd Sheaffer, Greensky Bluegrass, 9:30 p.m., \$10.
Jaxx: Nitzer Ebb, Ego Likeness, Anders Manga, 8:30 p.m., \$23.

Sight

Aaron Gallery: "The 20th Annual Small & Miniatures Show," artists limit the size of their constructions, but not the scope of their artistic vision, reception Fri., 6-8 p.m., through Dec. 31. 1717 Connecticut Ave., NW; 202-234-3311, aarongallerydc.com.

ACOUSTIC ROCK | RE: HIS BRAINS



SMART GUYS FINISH FIRST: It's not easy to be funny, smart and rockin' all at once, but Jonathan Coulton makes it look effortless. The scruffy Brooklyn singer-songwriter with way too much interest in giant squid, suburban ennui, Tom Cruise and the love lives of computer technicians cracks up the audience and raises the oof at the Birchmere on Friday.

LAST CHANCE Addison/Ripley Fine Art: "Three Seconds With the Masters," photography from James Osher takes classic works of art and reflects upon the nature of viewing art in a contemporary setting, through Sun. 1670 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-238-5180, addisonripleyfineart.com.

Alexandria Black History Museum: "Spirits in a Bottle," a lighthearted bottle-filled exhibit pays tribute to the African tradition, through Jan. Permanent and changing exhibitions highlighting Alexandria's rich history. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356, oha.alexandriava.gov/bhrc.

Anacostia Community Museum: "Separate but Unequaled," exhibit highlighting the achievements and success of the early segregated baseball leagues. 1901 Fort Place SE; 202-633-1000, anacostia.si.edu.

Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery: "Blue Like Me: the Work of Siona Benjamin," one Jewish artist's upbringing in Muslim-heavy India is expressed through painting, through Jan. 29. 1529 16th St. NW; 202-518-9400, washingtondcjcc.org.

Arlington Arts Center: "Image/Project," exhibition of video and paintings juried by Taryn Simon, through Jan. 16. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonartscenter.org.

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Falnama: the Book of Omens," vividly illustrated manuscripts on the end of days from the Islamic world, through Jan. 24. "Perspectives: Anish Kapoor," curved and elongated metallic sculptures from the Indian sculptor, through Jan. 3. 1050 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000,

DALE MAY

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LAST CHANCE The Art League

Gallery: "Boing!", lighthearted abstract paintings from Tory Cowles, through Dec. 7. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780, theartleague.org.

Art Museum of the Americas: "Bilateral Engagement," a survey of Washington Sculptor Guild work in honor of its 25th anniversary, through Jan. 15. 201

18th St. NW; 202-458-6016, museum.oas.org.

Athenaeum: "New Mythology," animal-inspired paintings from Tracey Clarke create a fantasy-heavy new world, through Jan. 3. 201 Prince St., Alexandria; 703-548-0035, nvfaa.org.

Civilian Art Projects: "Woods," photography from Terri Weifenbach of local leaved nature. "A Little Give and Take,"

mixed-media constructions from Carole Wagner Greenwood, both through Dec. 19. 1019 7th St. NW; 202-607-3804, civilianartprojects.com.

Conner Contemporary Art: "Cosmopolitan Chicken Art," Belgian conceptual artist Koen Vanmechelen meditates on cultural identity through chicken breeding, through Dec. 31. 1358 Florida Ave. NE; 202-588-8750, conner

contemporary.com.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Nature as Nation," 19th-century American landscape paintings. "Edward Burtynsky: Oil," 56 mammoth color landscapes from the Canadian photographer explore the effects and impact of the quest for oil, through Dec. 13. "Sargen and the Sea," rare seascape and

Continued on E14

December is Fabulous!



Fabulous Wreath Workshops

Dec 4, 10am-12:30pm
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Dec 3 & 17, 6-9pm

Escape for a night of shopping with friends and enjoy the lights and decorations around the estate.

Holiday Floral Workshop

Dec 8, 10:30am-1pm

Be inspired by our traditional holiday floral designs of the 1960s and create a contemporary arrangement of your own.

Limited to 20 people. Please call ahead.

Liz: Decorations, shopping and holiday festivities...

Judy: A fabulous way to end the year!

Russian Winter Festival

Dec 12, 10am-7pm
Dec 13, 1-5pm

Celebrate Sviatki, the Christmas season, like they do in Russia! Meet Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden, and enjoy folk music, art activities, festive dining and more.

A Serene Sunday

Dec 27, 1-5pm

Unwind with family and friends, and reflect on the past year while taking a stroll around the estate and gardens for one final immersion in the holiday splendor.



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ings from Joan Belmar, through Nov. 27. 1732 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-785-1746, embassyofchile.org.

Embassy of France: "Nouvelles Histories," abstract, pastel-heavy paintings from Isabelle Babington, through Jan. 8. 2142 Wyoming Ave. NW; 202-234-7911, francedc.org.

Embassy of Japan: "Japan Through Our Eyes," local alumni of the Japanese

Exchange and Teaching Program provide a photographic look into the culture of Japan, reception Thu.,

6:30 p.m., through Jan. 8. 2520 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-238-6949, embjapan.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Imagining China: the View from Europe, 1550-1700," woodprints, maps and paintings illustrate early modern Euro-

peans' fascination with China, through Jan. 9. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-4600, folger.edu.

The Foundry Gallery: "Holiday Bargain Bash," local artists exhibit their painted talent in an affordable and colorful holiday showcase, reception Fri., 6-8 p.m., through Dec. 19. 1314 18th St. NW; 202-463-0203, foundrygallery.org.

Fraser Gallery: "Winter Group Exhibit,"

new paintings from David FeBland, Mike Fitts, Tim O'Kane and others, through Jan. 9. 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-718-9651, thefrasergallery.com.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Texture of Night: James McNeill Whistler," through June 2010. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-1000, asia.si.edu.

The Gallery at Flashpoint: "Pacguy," video
Continued on E16

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2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45

TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13)

2:15, 4:50, 7:25

PLANET 51 (PG)

1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35

BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

2:20, 5:00, 7:35

PRECIOUS (R)

1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

2012 (PG-13)

3:15, 6:30

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THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX (PG)

10:10, 12:25, 2:25, 4:40, 7:40, 9:50

OLD DOGS (PG)

9:55, 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10

PRECIOUS (R)

9:50, 12:05, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

PIRATE RADIO (R)

9:45, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 8:00, 10:05

AN EDUCATION (PG-13)

10:00, 12:20, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:15

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SKIN (PG-13)

1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40

BAD LIEUTENANT: PORT OF CALL
NEW ORLEANS (NR)

1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

PIRATE RADIO (R)

1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30

RED CLIFF (R)

2:00, 5:00, 8:00

A SERIOUS MAN (R)

2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

THE MESSENGER (R)

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EXPLODING LAZY MINDS: "Look Out Below!" a France-framed, clown-filled adventure showing at Round House Theater, offers the young (and parents of the young) a colorful chance to stretch the imagination and funny bone.

TheScene

Continued from E17

game-referencing interactive wackiness from Kenny George, through Dec. 12. 916 G St. NW; 202-315-1305, flashpointdc.org.

Gallery Neptune: "Neptune Artist Marketplace," affordable small-scale artwork, through Dec. 20. 500I Wilson Lane, Bethesda; 301-718-0809, galleryneptune.com.

Gaylord National Harbor: "Christmas on the Potomac," 1.5 million pounds of ice turned into a holiday wonderland, through Jan. 10., \$13-\$24.50, 20I Waterfront St., National Harbor; 877-352-3629, christmasonthepotomac.com.

Goethe-Institut: "Iconoclasm" politically charged icons from the tumultuous period of transition in post-Berlin Wall Germany, through Jan. 8. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200, goethe.de/washington.

Hemphill Fine Arts: "Economy of Scale," group photography exhibition examines traditional understandings

of the space afforded to photography versus painting, through Dec. 23. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphill-finearts.com.

Hillyer Art Space: "Ass Against the Wall," sculptures from Martha Jackson Jarvis illustrate points of resistance and endurance that provide patterns to life, through Dec. 12. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org.

Hirshhorn: "Strange Bodies: Figurative Works From the Hirshhorn Collection," ongoing. "Anne Truitt: Perception and Reflection," a survey of large-scale work from the artist's 50-year career, through Jan. 3. "Directions: John Gerard," 3-D installation mixes reality with fiction in a new view of daytime, through May 31. 7th Street & Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, hirshhorn.org.

Irvine Contemporary: "Double Down," new stretching ink and gouache paintings from Oliver Vernon, through Dec. 12. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767, irvinecontemporary.com.

The Jerusalem Fund Gallery: "Mental Meditations," two-sided paintings from Ammar Qusaibaty use the idea of metaphor in Arabic culture to reflect on life and art, through Jan. 8. 2425 Vir-

ginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, thejerusalemfund.org.

The Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery: "Ink-N-Print 09," Helen Frederick curates an affordable selection of the best local print artists, reception Fri., 6-8 p.m., through Dec. 24. 1632 U St. NW; 202-483-8600, smithfarm.com/gallery.

LAST CHANCE Katzen Arts Center: "Culture Warriors," each state and territory in Australia presents the best of its contemporary and indigenous art as a means of preserving culture and history, presented by the National Gallery of Australia, through Dec. 6. "Life With the Berlin Wall," a look through virtual reality into life behind the wall, through Dec. 20. 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-7979-3025, american.edu/cas/katzen.

The Kreeger Museum: "Kentridge and Kudryashov: Against the Grain," dramatic and harsh political climates set the foundation for the terse and color-dipped paintings from South Africa's William Kentridge and Russia's Oleg Kudryashov, through Dec. 30; sculpture garden featuring works from the Washington Sculptors Guild, through June.



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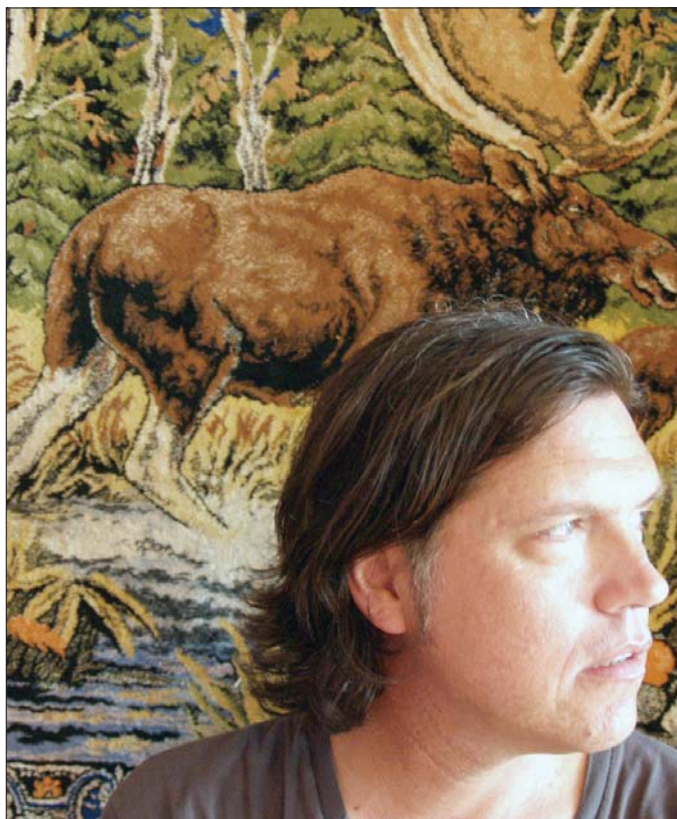
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XX173aC 2x6

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MERGE RECORDS

WEATHERED: There's a darker side to the growling voice and gentle picking of Richard Buckner, and when the songwriter starts wielding love ballads at Iota on Friday, few listeners will be able to resist the soft charm and pathos.

2401 Foxhall Road NW; 202-337-3050, kreegermuseum.org.

The Lyceum: "Tramping and Trailing With the Girl Scouts," collection of photos and artifacts detail the growth and expansion of scouting in the D.C. area, through May 31. 201 S Washington St. Alexandria; 703-838-4554, historicalalexandria.org.

Mexican Cultural Institute: "Dialogues in Mexican Photography," showing the best of the Mexican photographic community, through Jan. 30. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1628, instituteofmexicodc.org.

LAST CHANCE Museum of Contemporary Art: "Heads or Tails," the human form and the model behind that image, through Sun. 1054 31st St. NW; 202-342-6230, mocadc.org.

National Air and Space Museum: "Alan Bean: Painting Apollo, First Artist on Another World," reflections and paintings from the fourth man on the moon; ongoing exhibitions and largest collection of historic aircraft and spacecraft in the world. 6th Street & Inde-

pendence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, nasm.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE National Building Museum: "Form and Movement," photographs from Phillip Trager explore light and symmetry in the construction of buildings, through Jan. 3. "House of Cars," exploring the relationship between parked cars and humans, through July. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art, East Building: "Editions With Additions: Working Proofs by Jasper Johns," through Jan. 10; "Alexander Calder"; "The Robert and Jane Meyeroff Collection: Selected Works," through May 2. **National Gallery of Art, West Building:** "Robert Bergman: Portraits, 1986-1995," portraits of the street people encountered and shot by the artist on an everyday basis through Jan. 10; "The Darker Side of Light: Arts of Privacy," moody reflections from private 19th-century collections, through Jan. 18; "Renaissance to Revolution: French Drawings From the National Gallery of Art, 1500-1800,"

through Jan. 31; "Designing the Lincoln Memorial: Daniel Chester French & Henry Bacon" features a plaster final model of the statue, through Feb. "In the Darkroom: Photographic Processes Before the Digital Age," exhibition of the history and developing craft of capturing images on film, through March 14. Permanent exhibit, European and American paintings, sculpture and decorative arts from the 13th through the 19th centuries. 6th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-737-4215, nga.gov.

National Geographic: "Terra Cotta Warriors," the legendary Chinese clay figures come to D.C., through March 31; "Polar Obsession," photographs from the frigid and chilling arctic world, through Feb. 15. "National Geographic Image Collection," best of the magazine's storied collection, through April 15. 1145 17th St. NW; 202-857-7588, nationalgeographic.com/museum.

National Museum of African Art: "Artful Animals," a family-friendly exhibition looks into Africa and its animals, through Feb. 21. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-4600, africa.si.edu.

National Museum of American History: The newly light-filled space contains an array of ongoing exhibitions, including "The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington: Picturing the Promise," through Feb.; "The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem"; "On the Water: Stories From Maritime America"; "Bon Appetit! Julia Child's Kitchen at the Smithsonian"; and many more, permanent collection. 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, americanhistory.si.edu.

National Museum of the American Indian: "IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas," 20-panel exhibition focuses on the relation between African American and American Indian people, through May 31. Displays about the history and culture of American Indians, permanent collection. 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Natural History: "Dig It! The Secrets of the Soil," through Jan. "Since Darwin: The Evolution of Evolution," the history and timeline of one of the most influential scientific theories, through July 18; "Farmers, Warriors, Builders: The Hidden Life of Ants," the quiet and powerful impact of some

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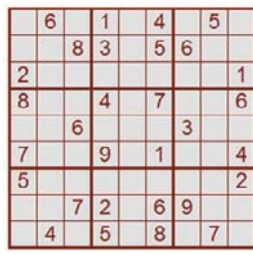
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Spike Your Temperature

Brave the cold and knock the chill off with a new spin on a classic winter drink

WARM-UPS | Nothing chases away a chill like a warm drink, and that means hot chocolate for many people — including George and Martha Washington.

If you're looking for a different spin on a classic winter drink, **MOUNT VERNON INN** is taking it all the way back to its American roots from Nov. 27 to Jan. 6, giving free samples of hot chocolate the way it was made in the 1700s. The brew is thick, grainy and full of strong chocolate flavor spiked with nutmeg, cinnamon, anise seed and cayenne pepper.

Of course, it's a bit different from Martha's recipe.

"She would have probably purchased the chocolate that already had the sugar and spices in it, then grated it over hot water, boiled it, then boiled it again and frothed it by stirring," said Gail Cassidy, manager of interpretation.

Today, Mount Vernon Inn goes several steps further, roasting its own cacao beans, crushing them into nibs and then grinding the nibs until cocoa butter emerges and forms a honey-like consistency. Sugar and spices are then added to balls of the chocolate, which are grated over special pots to make the drink. The process can take six hours to yield 2 pounds of chocolate, Cassidy said.

"It's worth it," she said. "It's definitely a distinctive taste. It's a spicy drink."

Cups of the chocolate are not available for sale, although the gift shop does offer make-at-home kits.

What the Mount Vernon Inn does have available for drinking by its fireplaces are some other cold-weather staples, including a hot



Heat things up with Mount Vernon Inn's hot buttered rum — shot of brandy optional.

buttered rum — made by cooking butter, sugar and cinnamon down, then combining a scoop of it with dark rum and hot water — and mulled cider infused with cinnamon and cloves. A shot of applejack in the cider is optional.

"You can get it with or without the brandy," said general manager Tom Truchio. "When you walk in here in the winter, you smell it right away."

One classic drink that warms people in more ways than one is the hot toddy. And Andrew Connor, bar manager at **KRAMERBOOKS & AFTERWORDS BOOKSTORE AND CAFÉ**, said he's spent years making one that veers slightly from

“You’ve got to like whiskey to like the drink.”

—**BAR MANAGER ANDREW CONNOR** ON KRAMERBOOKS & AFTERWORDS BOOKSTORE AND CAFÉ'S INTOXICATINGLY GOOD HOT TODDY

the norm.

"I don't know exactly the tradition, but I believe most are made with tea," he said. "We make ours by taking a dollop of honey, cinnamon sticks, cloves, a lemon wedge and a shot of whiskey, and sometimes a splash of cinnamon schnapps for kick."

This toddy isn't one that tries to hide the alcohol, though.

"You've got to like whiskey to like the drink," Connor said.

Putting new spins on venerable old winter elixirs is something Gina Chersevani, mixologist at **PS7'S RESTAURANT**, says she loves. Lately, she said she has been drawing inspiration from a collection of cocktails from the late 1800s and early 1900s, which she found at a used bookstore. PS7's menu features both a spiced cider and the "Ale'ments" cocktail, an apple concoction that spends hours in a slow cooker before it's served.

"The apples are cooked with ale and cardamom a little bit of cinnamon and raw honey in a Crock Pot overnight, so all of the alcohol cooks off," she said. "Anyone can drink that. When I make it for guests who do imbibe, I add rum and a little bit of ginger."

Anyone looking to try the cocktail might consider ordering it after dinner, Chersevani said.

"It's good at six o'clock," she said. "But at eight o'clock, it's just banging delicious. It gets this caramel color and it's just great. I sell out of them every night."

PS7's scalded milk — a thick combination incorporating bourbon, sweet Sauternes wine, ginger, vanilla, cinnamon, ginger and cardamom — actually came about after a failed pastry experiment.

"There's a very famous French dessert called a 'floating island,' and the basis of it is milk," Chersevani said. "They take it and form a loose custard. I tried making it at home and I actually burnt the bottom of the milk, so I couldn't use it. But I was like, 'It tastes good. We can use this for something else.' And I realized if I used a lighter liquid to bind it — the Sauternes — it takes the place of the sugar in the dessert. I don't know. My mind just works different from other people." **ROBERT MARGETTA**



mix it yourself

It's getting hot over at PS 7 thanks to mixologist Gina Chersevani. No need to brave the cold to feel the heat. Mix her apple-infused winter elixir at home:

"ALE" MENTS

SERVES ABOUT 10-12

- 8 apples (Pink Ladies work well)
- 2 quarts of Dale's Pale Ale
- 2 cups of raw (unprocessed) honey
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 5 cardamom pods
- 1 star anise
- 10-12 oz. of Brugal Anejo Rum

PEEL AND QUARTER the apples.

Place all the spices in a piece of cheesecloth and tie it up (or a tea infuser works just as well). Pour the beer into a pot and add the spice ball, honey and apples. Let simmer for about 20 minutes, until just before it boils — low and slow! Take the ale mixture off the heat. In a glass mug, pour 1 oz. of Brugal Anejo Rum and fill with the ale mixture. Enjoy!

→ **Mount Vernon Inn**, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, Va.; 703-780-0011, mount-vernion.org.

→ **Kramerbooks & Afterwords Bookstore and Cafe**, 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-387-3825, kramers.com. (Dupont Circle)

→ **PS 7's Restaurant**, 777 I St. NW; 202-742-8550, ps7restaurant.com. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

The Great, Amazing Fruit

Adventurous foodies score Miracle Fruit to tease their taste buds

OVERDOSE | When Grandma said to take lemons and make lemonade, she probably didn't have synsepalum dulcificum fruit in mind.

But that's what the little berries, often known as "miracle fruit" do. One places a berry on the tongue and lets it disintegrate, so the glycoprotein inside coats the taste buds, and presto — for an hour or so, bitter fare tastes sweet.

Eliot Blume said he held tastings parties with the berries in col-

lege, and he's taken that tradition to the EFN Lounge. From 7 to 9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month, starting Dec. 11, EFN plans on hosting "Flavor Tripping" parties, where \$12 will buy a berry and access to a buffet.

The berries are imported from West Africa, so Blume said EFN is using an online reservation system, although it will take a limited number of \$15 admissions at the door.

"The two questions I get on the Web site are, 'Is it legal?' and 'Does it work?'" he said. "Yes, it is legal, and, yes, it does work."

Does it ever. At a tasting



COURTESY S. L. TAN

Synsepalum dulcificum, a West African berry, changes your sour to sweet.

preview, the berry completely defanged Sour Patch Kids candies, making them taste more like Swedish Fish. Rice wine vinegar turned into something like sweet dessert wine. Tabasco sauce retained some of its kick, but under the berry's influence it was downgraded to roughly the level of a Buffalo wing.

Blume said a buffet containing all of those items will be available in a part of the club converted into a "tripateria," along with bites like sugarless lemon cupcakes, mojitos, blueberries and strawberries.

By doing some experiments, the EFN staff have come up with

some unexpected flavor reactions, Blume said.

Goat cheese? "Cheesecake. And if it's warm, it has the consistency of frosting."

A mix of lemon sorbet and Guinness? "It's like a chocolate milk shake." Bottom-of-the-shelf tequila? "It's like Patron."

One note about that tequila — the berries may fool the tongue, but the lips, throat and sense of smell are left as vulnerable as ever.

"That's what we have to warn people about," Blume said. "If you hit the balsamic vinegar and the lemons really hard, you might feel it the morning after."

ROBERT MARGETTA

→ EFN Lounge, 1318 9th St. NW; 202-232-7450, efnlounge.com. (Mount Vernon Square)



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TheScene

Continued from E17

of nature's smallest creatures, through Oct. 10; "Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake," through Feb. 2011, other permanent exhibitions. 10th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, mnhs.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts:

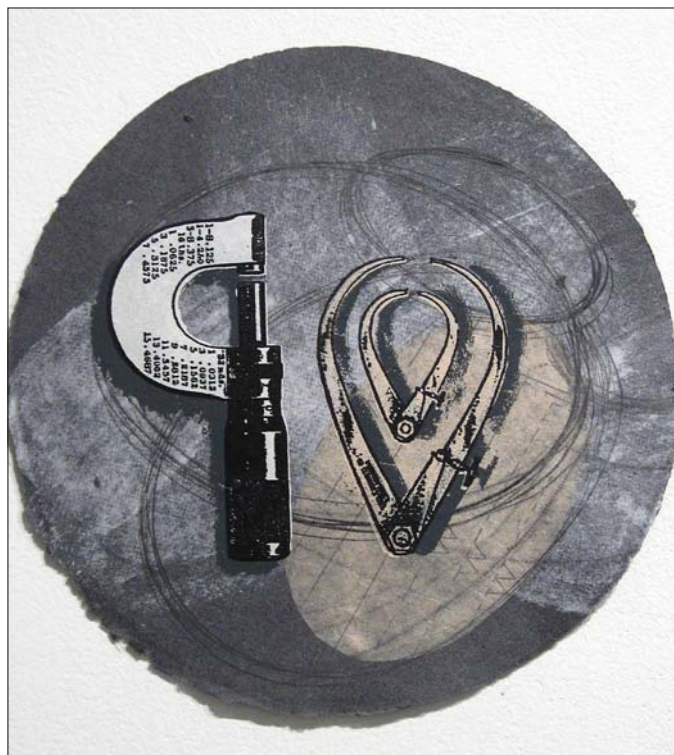
"Land of Enchantment: Australian Aboriginal Painting," the intricate patterns and vibrant color of Australia's finest artists; "Telling Secrets: Codes, Captions, and Conundrums in Contemporary Art," 39 pieces of multilayered art offers the chance to contemplate the different meanings and interpretations; "Elements of Nature: Equines and Still Lives by Clarice Smith," 20 paintings from Smith's keen vision of the natural world, all through Jan. 10; "Hard Copy, Book as Sculpture," books that blend the line between paper and sculpture, through Jan. 17. 1250 New York Ave.

NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Presidents in Waiting," through Jan. 3; "Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits from the American West, 1845-1924," through Jan. 24; "Portraiture Now: Communities," the individual members of small towns and families come alive through the individual portraits, through July 5; "Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition," through Aug. Other permanent exhibitions, 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

Nevin Kelly Gallery: "Zeitgeist II: What's Important Now," local artists respond

GALLERY | SELECTING A MYSTERY



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FROM HER FINGERS: As the founder of Pyramid Atlantic and artist in her own right, Helen Frederick has a particular eye for beauty. She curates a collection of the best prints and art, "Ink-N-Print 09" at the Smith Farm Center.

to the pressing issues of today in a wide range of artistic ways, through Dec. 12. 1400 Irving St. NW; 202-232-3464, nevinkellygallery.com.

Newseum: "Manhunt: Chasing Lincoln's Killer," how developments in journalism helped the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth, through Feb. 28. "Woodstock at 40: The Rise of Music Journalism," photographs, artifacts and coverage from the semi-

nal event, through Oct. 31. "G-Men and Journalists," a history of media coverage and the FBI, both through Dec. 31; "Athlete: the Sports Illustrated Photography of Walter Iloos," nearly 50 years of documenting the world of sports from one of its greatest photographers, through Dec. 31, ongoing permanent exhibitions illustrating the role of a free press in a

Continued on E22

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TheScene

Continued from E21

free society, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 888-639-7386, newseum.org.

The Phillips Collection: "Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens," iconic photos that recontextualized African art and revolutionized photography, through Jan. "Brain Storm," stunning video installation from Jennifer Wen Ma, through Jan. 3. "Object as Subject: Photographs of the Czech Avant-Garde," through Feb. 7. 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

Renwick Gallery: "Staged Stories: Renwick Craft Invitational 2009," Christyl Boger, Mark Newport, Mary Van Cline and SunKoo Yuh handle ceramic and fiber past traditional limits of functionality and focus on the narrative qualities of their material, through Jan. 3; "Grand Salon — Paintings From the Smithsonian American Art Museum," permanent. 1661 Pennsylvania Ave. NW;

202-633-2850, americanart.si.edu/renwick.

Reyes + Davis: "Fine Lines," An exhibition of drawings from Janis Goodman, Kate McGraw, Linn Meyers and Jennifer Mullins, reception Fri. 6:30- 9 p.m., through Dec. 31. "Icarus: Intersections," through Jan. 31. 923 F St. NW; 202-255-5050, reyesdavis.com.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "1934: A New Deal for Artists," paintings spawned from the first federally funded program for the arts, through Jan. 3. "The Honor of Your Company Is Requested," President Abraham Lincoln's inaugural ball, through Jan. 18. "What's It All Mean?" retrospective of the paintings and work of William T. Wiley, through Jan. 24. Permanent collection, ongoing. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu.

Stamp Gallery: "Toppled," multi-dimensional media mix in Jessica Vaughn's examination of the role of movement in the exploration of race, politics and myth, through Dec. 18. 1222 Stamp Stu-

Entertainment | WeekendPass

SIGHT | ALL AROUND THE PLAYFUL SPHERES



COURTESY KREEGER MUSEUM

NO TOY: Not all the art is inside the doors of the Kreeger Museum. The surrounding grounds and gardens are dotted by jaw-dropping creations from the Washington Sculptors Guild, such as Wendy Ross's delicate piece, pictured, "Haiku."

dent Union, University of Maryland, College Park; thestamp.umd.edu/gallery.

Studio Gallery: "Call and Response," 35 member artists exhibit a range of works encompassing various forms and topics, through Dec. 19. 2108 R St.; 202-232-8734, studiogallerydc.com.

The Textile Museum: "Recent Acquisitions," the top new additions to the museum, through Jan. 3; "Contemporary Japanese Fashion: The Mary Basket Collection," through April 11. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

Transformer Gallery: "A Hole in the Wall," yellow bricks, video and changing constructions mark Geoffrey Aldridge's reflections on the continuing struggle of the gay community, through Dec. 26. 1404 P St. NW; 202-483-1102, transformergallery.org.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "African-American Gardens: Places of the Spirit." "Holiday Magic," through Jan. 10. Permanent exhibitions of more than 4,000 plants and a tropical rain forest. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, usb.gov.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: "A Dangerous Lie: Protocols of the Elders of Zion," "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," "Remember the Children: Daniel's Story," alongside other poignant exhibitions of artifacts, photographs and oral histories from the Holocaust era. 100 Raoul Wallenberg

Place/15th St. SW; 202-488-0400, ushmm.org.

The Walters Art Museum: "Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece," statues, vases, jewelry and other art, on loan from various museums, combine to discuss the meaning of heroism, through Jan. 3. 600 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.; 410-547-9000, thewalters.org.

Washington Printmakers Gallery: "Days o' Work," etchings, woodcuts and rubbings from Trudi Y Ludwig provide an earthy center to philosophical conundrums, reception Fri., 5:30-8:30 p.m. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757, washingtonprintmakers.com.

Washington Project for the Arts: "Icebox," a collection of small and reasonably priced artistic works, through Dec. 21. 2023 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-234-7103, wpadc.org.

Washington Sculptors Group: "With These Hands: the Sculptures of Sy Gresser and Bill Taylor," two area sculptors' work shows at the University of Maryland's University College, through Dec. 15. 3501 University Blvd. E., Adelphi, Md.; 301-955-7937, washingtonsculptors.org.

Winter Palace Studio: "Black Kitchen Magic, Etc." realistic paintings from Natasha Mokina and Victor Pakhomkin, through Dec. 14. 1054 31st St. NW; 301-263-0000, winterpalacestudio.com.

WVSA Art-ulate Gallery: "It's All

About the Journey," transportation-themed art from younger artists of WVSA, through Jan. 23. 1100 16th St. NW; 202-296-9100, wvsarts.org.

Stage

A Little Princess: The classic heart-warming story of a small girl's journey from riches to poverty to a home of her own, comes to the stage in a special holiday presentation from Silver Spring Stage, through Dec. 20, \$5-\$10. 10145 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 301-593-6036, ssstage.org.

As You Like It: The Bard is placed on a movie set as director Maria Aitken-Continued on E24



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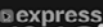
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Edward Burtnysky, SOCAR Oil Fields #6, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2006. Chromogenic color print. Photograph © Edward Burtnysky, courtesy Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto; Hasted Hunt Kraeutler, New York; and Adamson Gallery, Washington, DC.

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WeekendPass

ROCK | SOUNDS LIKE HOME-ISH



POWER SLIDE: Questionable fashion choices aside, Baltimore rockers Fools & Horses have a finger on the pulse of tender rock n' roll guaranteed to melt hearts and ears. The eternal prom song comes to Jammin' Java on Friday.

TheScene

Continued from E25

retells Shakespeare's story of searching love and missed connections in the mythical land of Hollywood film history, through Dec. 20, \$20-\$87. 516 8th St.

SE; 877-487-8849, shakespeare theatre.org.
August: Osage County: The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play detailing of the climactic meltdown of one large family, through Dec. 20, \$25-\$80. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 800-444-1324, kennedy-center.org.



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Entertainment | WeekendPass

Camelot: The Tony Award-winning musical journey into the knight-circled table and kingdom, through Jan. 3, \$26-\$49, Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Carla & Company: Separation between performer and audience is stripped away in this intimate expression of song, word and dance, Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. 6 p.m., \$7-\$22, Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, danceplace.org.

A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and the Christmastime ghosts come to life in Ford's Theatre's rendering of Charles Dickens' classic story, through Jan. 3. \$30-\$41. 514 10th St. NW; 800-587-5238, fords.org.

The Christmas Revels: Celebrate the seasons, Italian Renaissance style, in this music-and dance-filled performance. *Continued on E26*

PHOTOGRAPHY | WORTH A CLOSER LOOK



EDUARDO DEL VALLE & MIRTA GOMEZ

DUE SPACE: With pause-worthy selections, Hemphill's latest exhibition, "Economy of Scale," challenges artistic preconceptions that might place photographs at a disadvantage compared to more traditional artistic forms.

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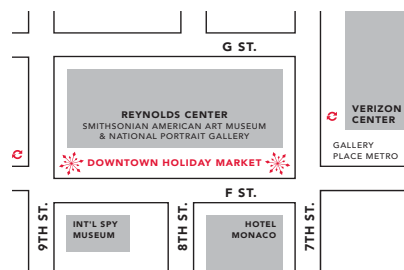
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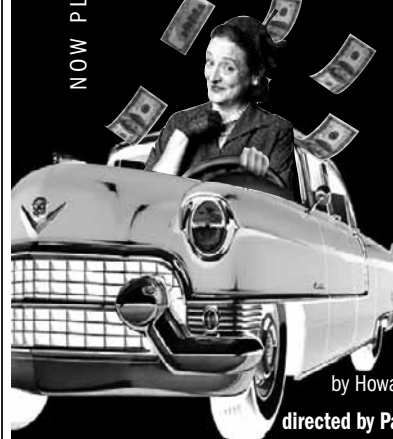
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TheScene

Continued from E25

mance, through Dec. 13, \$12-\$45, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW; 800-595-4849, revelsdc.org.

LAST CHANCE Disco Pigs: A frenetic look into the pounding birthday night of two teenagers in Cork, Ireland, through Sat., \$20. Solas Nua, 916 G St. NW; 800-494-8497, solasnua.org.

The Fantasticks: Arena Stage brings one of the longest running love stories, with all its timeless charm, through Jan. 10, \$25-\$74. 1215 U St. NW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

Jersey Boys: The Tony Award-winning, song-filled story of four average kids and their journey to rock 'n' roll stardom, through Dec. 12, \$51-\$215. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-6161, nationaltheatre.org.

Look Out Below! The end of the 19th Century is greeted in a balloon-filled adventure appropriate for the whole family, through Dec. 20, \$10-\$15, Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West High-

way, Bethesda; 240-644-1100, roundhousetheatre.org.

Lulu: Frank Wedekind's infamous It Girl ascends and falls precipitously in this parable about vice and sexual freedom, Washington Shakespeare Company stages this production through Dec. 13, \$26.50. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Arlington; 800-494-8497, boxofficetickets.com/wsc.

LAST CHANCE Of Mice and Men: John Steinbeck's Great Depression tragedy is retold by Keegan Theatre, through Sun., \$25-\$30. Church Street Theatre, 1742 Church St. NW; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Pearl Bailey ... by Request: Roz White plays the wily songbird, through Dec. 20, \$45-\$50. Metro Stage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 800-494-8497, metrostage.org.

Seasonal Disorder: Washington Improv Theater tackles the dysfunction and insanity of the holidays, through Dec. 19, \$25. Source Theatre, 1835 14th St. NW; 800-494-8497, sourcedc.org.

Showboat: The musical about life on the Mississippi provides a look into the nature of change and prejudice, through

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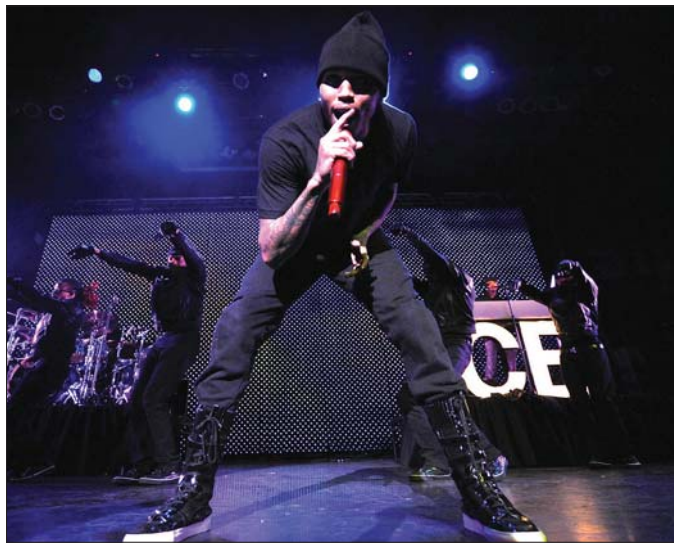
Jan. 17, \$30-\$57. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-573-7328, signature-theatre.org.

The Solid Gold Cadillac: Corporate greed and economic malaise aren't just for the headlines as this 1953 comedy features one woman, played by Nancy Robinette, who isn't afraid to ask questions, through Jan. 10, \$42-\$63; Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

Striking 12: A music-filled jazzed-up retelling of one grumpy holiday homebody who discovers the true meaning of Christmas, through Dec. 13, \$27-\$48, Arena Stage, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

Uh Oh, Here Comes Christmas: The books of Robert Fulghum come to the stage in a family-ready explosion of song, through Dec. 20, \$10-\$13. Laurel Mill Playhouse, 508 Main St., Laurel; 301-617-9906, laurelmillplayhouse.com.

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Railroad Earth w/ The Infamous Stringdusters	F 11
The Pietasters w/ Ruder Than You • The breakUps • The Moderators	Sa 12
Switchfoot	Su 13
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The Greyboy Allstars w/ The Constellations	F 18
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My Favorite Highway & The Friday Night Boys w/ The Downtown Fiction & Steven Moakler	Su 20
Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers w/ The Alternate Routes	Sa 26
Clutch w/ Doomriders • Lionize • Never Got Caught	M 28

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Iverson Back in Philly

Guard's career comes full circle after short stint in retirement

Pro Basketball

Dust off the No. 3 jersey. Allen Iverson is with the 76ers again.

Team president Ed Stefanski announced the signing Wednesday on the team's Web site. Iverson is expected to make his debut Monday at home against the Denver Nuggets.

"In light of the recent injury to Lou Williams, which will sideline him for close to eight weeks, we felt that Allen was the best available free agent guard to help us at this time," Stefanski said in a release. Williams, who averaged 17.4 points and 5.1 assists, broke his jaw in Philadelphia's loss to Washington on Nov. 24.

The 34-year-old Iverson announced his retirement last week after an ill-fated stint with the Memphis Grizzlies. The 10-time All-Star was NBA MVP in 2001



Ex-Georgetown star Allen Iverson was the Philadelphia 76ers' top draft pick in 1996.

Backstory

In 10 seasons with the Sixers, Iverson — who was drafted No. 1 overall out of Georgetown in 1996 — posted the highest scoring average in team history (28.1), was second on the points list (19,583) and held the record for 3-pointers (877). He was a seven-time All-Star, and won four scoring titles and two All-Star Game MVP awards. (AP)

when he led the Sixers to the NBA finals.

"We had, at times, a rocky road with Allen Iverson, but we also had a fantastic run with Allen," Peter Luukko, COO of Comcast-Spectacor — which owns the 76ers and Flyers — told The Associated Press. "The expectations with Allen have changed dramatically. We're not looking for Allen to individually lead this team the way he has in the past." DAN GELSTON (AP)



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PRO BASKETBALL

Ron Artest's past on-court behavior may have caused some to question whether he was drunk.

It turns out the oft-troubled forward now with the Los Angeles Lakers used to drink at halftime at some games. In an interview with the Sporting News, Artest admitted to having some Hennessy, which he claimed to hide in his locker when he played for the Chicago Bulls between 1999 and 2002. (EXPRESS)



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Sports

Redskins' Hall in a World of Pain

Barring a 'miracle,' cornerback will sit out game vs. Saints

Pro Football

The pain has been the worst part for cornerback DeAngelo Hall, who hasn't experienced as much as you would think after all these years in the NFL. Sure, Hall has had the usual assortment of bumps and bruises, but his sprained knee is something different for him.

"I've never had this before," he said. "I have a Grade-2 slight sprain of my MCL [medial collateral ligament], so I don't know what that really means. I've never had any-



LARRY FRENCH/GETTY IMAGES

Redskins cornerback DeAngelo Hall is eighth in the NFL in interceptions.

thing. I'm just kind of playing it all by ear."

After suffering the injury in the Week 11 loss to the Dallas Cowboys, Hall sat out Sunday's loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. Although

coach Jim Zorn has not ruled out Hall's playing this week against the New Orleans Saints, Hall said he probably would not play "unless there's a miracle."

He did little in practice on Wednesday as the team resumed preparations for the Saints. If Hall sits out again, cornerback Carlos Rogers would start. "It's not looking too good," Hall said. "But I'm going to keep working. I'm going to keep working on my rehab, doing all my strengthening exercises, trying to be ready. Trying to be ready mentally."

Hall leads the Redskins with four interceptions and is tied for eighth in the league. JASON REID (THE WASHINGTON POST)

TV Lineup

CAPITALS (7 P.M., CSN) With Alex Ovechkin suspended, the Caps will be missing their best player when hosting the Florida Panthers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (9 P.M., ESPN) The top two teams in the Pac 10 square off when No. 7 Oregon hosts No. 13 Oregon State.

NBA (8:15 P.M. AND 10:30 P.M., TNT) The Boston Celtics visit the San Antonio Spurs, and the Denver Nuggets host the Miami Heat.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. AND 9 P.M., ESPN2) Texas Tech battles Washington, and USC takes on Texas in what sounds like a better football game than basketball game.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (8 P.M., FSN) Kansas hosts UCLA.

385

The number of saves accumulated by reliever Billy Wagner, who on Wednesday signed a one-year, \$7 million contract with the Atlanta Braves. The 38-year-old is sixth on the career list in saves and second among left-handers behind John Franco (424). He was used in a setup role with the Boston Red Sox last season. (AP)



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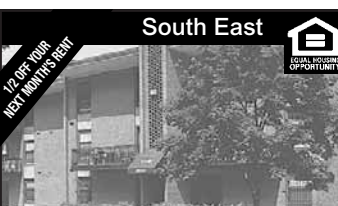
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lookout

Closet Door Opens
'Family Ties' actress
Meredith Baxter says
she is a lesbian **37**

Broadcast Muse



Finale Analysis

What if they aired a reality show finale and nobody cared who won? That is the dilemma that faces "Amazing Race" fans as the last episode of this cycle airs Sunday. Last week saw the tragic ouster of the Harlem Globetrotter team, who never got mad at each other and who made awesome comments, like, "I'm just going to keep saying the word 'hot' because it's hot." Their downfall was the inability to take the letters F, N, Z, A, and R and turn them into Franz. As in Kakfa.

So, who's left? A

soulless boyfriend and girlfriend; a Miss America who can't count bells in a belfry and her "I can't start a car" husband, above; and two gay brothers whose idea of fraternal dialogue is "You're a baby." "No, you're a baby."

The pending finale of "Top Chef" presents the opposite problem. All four finalists are kind of interesting — pig-loving Kevin Gillespie, awesome yet uneven Jen, calm and gifted Bryan Voltaggio (I have eaten your food, Bryan, and it is so good I wept with joy) and equally gifted but kinda abrasive brother Michael.

I want all of them to win (except maybe Michael). No, what I really want is for the Harlem Globetrotters to show up and outcook all of them.

A Hero Lies in an Actress

Eva Longoria Parker is honored for her unflagging dedication to helping others

Philanthropist

Last week, Eva Longoria Parker flew Washington to speak at a news conference on Capitol Hill with the secretary of labor and the interior secretary, launching a campaign for the National Museum of American Latinos.

Longoria Parker lavishes enthusiasm on a host of charities, including the museum that's to be built in Washington, Padres Contra El Cancer, the Mexico-based Foundation of Rafa Marquez and her own organization, Eva's Heroes.

"I love charities," she says, and above all "I love to work with charities where it's not about a hand-out — it's an educational system

"I don't want to segregate people; I want to integrate people into the community."

that's going to teach you to cope with life. I don't want to segregate people; I want to integrate people into the community."

It's always tempting to be skeptical about an actor's charity work. But for Longoria Parker, this is no performance. She's been an activist since she was 3 years old, sitting under her mother's desk in a class-



Hollywood Reporter's philanthropist of the year, Eva Longoria Parker (in red), hangs with celebs at a reception in her honor.

On Screen

Art Portrays Life

Longoria Parker is going further than award shows: She's also producing a documentary, "Harvest," about farm-worker children, mostly Latin Americans. "These kids are stuck in a cycle of poverty," she says. "These are not jobs that are being taken away from other Americans; there's no American who wants that job. George Lopez always says, 'If an immigrant took your job, then your job sucks.'" Longoria Parker is still putting together the money for the film, but she's confident she'll find it. **M.M.**

room for special needs children. One of those children was her oldest sister, Liza.

The actress remembers what it was like to live with her sister.

"I was born into Liza's world," she says, "which was

fantastic and educational." Today, Liza is 41, has a job, lives in a group home, has a boyfriend and a bowling league and still works. Longoria Parker is working with utter devotion to help others overcome obstacles, which is why the

Hollywood Reporter has named her its philanthropist of the year.

More than anything, she has become associated with Latino causes and was a supporter way before she became Gabrielle Solis on ABC's "Desperate Housewives."

"I've known her since she arrived in Los Angeles, before she was famous," says David Damien Figueroa, director of the Mexican-American Legal, Defense and Educational Fund, which recently honored Longoria Parker for her work with Latino causes. "Sometimes people become famous and leave the activist person behind; Eva is an activist who just happened to become famous." **MARY MURPHY (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)**

online
now

expressnightout.com ►► The Bravery's new CD rejects the bright, straightforward sounds that made the group famous ►► Could you be addicted to the Internet? Dr. Andrea Bonior details the warning signs ►► Competitive yoga isn't an oxymoron — just ask the contenders coming to Baltimore this weekend

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lookout entertainment



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Separation Anxiety

Birdman on how Cash Money will do without Lil Wayne

Label Mates

Lil Wayne is facing a year behind bars in February, but don't expect either the rapper or his label, Cash Money, to fall off the radar.

Birdman, who is the co-founder of Cash Money, recently released his own album, "Pricele\$\$," and a new Lil Wayne CD is planned for release soon; albums by Drake and Bow Wow are to come early next year.

Still, Birdman's biggest concern isn't about Cash Money — he's grappling with the imprisonment of Lil Wayne, who pleaded guilty last month to an illegal weapons charge. Birdman discovered the rapper and often refers to him as "my son."

Lil Wayne will have to spend a year in jail. How do you think that

will effect his career?

My son is the best rapping [expletive] on Earth. But at this point, forget rap. It's about him right now.

After Lil Wayne left the courthouse, what kind of advice did you give him?

To keep doing what he loves — music. You take that away from us, we really don't need to live.

Lil Wayne is easily the mainstay for Cash Money. When he's gone, will your record label suffer?

Not as a company. But we will suffer in losing my son Wayne, who we love. Him as a person means more to me than anything.

Do you see Drake being a bigger star than Lil Wayne?

Drake is already a superstar.

But as big as Wayne?

Hopefully, he'll be bigger. That's what we're striving for. JONATHAN LANDRUM JR. (AP)

What the Heck?

Get Some Guts

Were you envious when Han Solo stuffed a wounded Luke Skywalker into the steaming innards of a slain Taun Taun in "The Empire Strikes Back"? Though not as damp or smelly, the new Taun Taun sleeping bag (\$100, Thinkgeek.com) comes

close to replicating the experience. The item started out as a Think Geek April Fool's joke, but the response was so positive that the company ended up manufacturing the real thing. It's already sold out twice, so hurry — order now and it'll ship Dec. 7. P.S. The zipper pull is a plush light saber! HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)



Top DVDs**1. Up****2. The Ugly Truth****3. G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra****4. Transformers: Revenge Of the Fallen****5. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs****6. The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3.****7. Monsters, Inc.****8. Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure****9. The Proposal****10. Monsters vs. Aliens**

Something Odd, Something New

OK Go weirds up its sound for a quirky, melancholic album

Experimental

In the music video for "WTF," the first single from OK Go's upcoming album, "Of the Blue Colour of the Sky," the pop-rockers use a single take in front of a green screen to capture a dizzying palette of slow-fading colors. While the innovative clip recalls the hugely successful treadmill video for 2006's "Here It Goes Again," the song hints at a more experimental approach for the act's third full-length album.



OK Go's "Of the Blue Colour of the Sky" distances the band from prototypical pop.

"There's nothing more boring than making the same record over and over," vocalist/guitarist Damian Kulash says.

"Sky," due out Jan. 12 on Capitol Records, is a collection of off-

beat pop tracks that departs from the band's catchy rock sound of past hits such as "Get Over It" and "A Million Ways." "[The album] is more melancholic, and I love it. I'm so much more proud of it than any-

thing before it," Kulash says.

The band emerged with what Kulash describes as a "wintery, dark record," with tracks such as "Skyscrapers" and "All Is Not Lost" showcasing a slower, more falsetto-driven sound. An iTunes-exclusive premiere of the song helped "warn people that something weirder is coming out," as Kulash puts it.

With a European tour lined up for January and an Asian and U.S. trek to follow, OK Go is ready to change people's perception. "We're not going to duplicate ourselves. There won't be a video of us on elliptical trainers," Kulash says. "We just want to be the band who does weird stuff."

JASON LIPSHUTZ (BILLBOARD.COM)



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Sing That Soulful Music, White Boy

Robin Thicke feels
right at home in the
R&B community

Insider

For perhaps the first time in history, a Caucasian soul singer who once rocked hippie hair and whose father portrayed a TV dad on an '80s sitcom was bold enough to adopt a celebrated rapper's lyrics and make a love song out of them — and his effort is winning praise.

On his upcoming fourth solo effort, "Sex Therapy," slated for a Dec. 15 release on Star Trak/Interscope Records, Robin Thicke took lines from Rakim's "Mahogany" and laid them atop a sample of Al Green's "I'm Glad You're Mine" for a track titled "Mrs. Sexy."

"When I played it for Jay-Z, he was, like, 'First of all, who do you think you are with Rakim's lyrics?'" Thicke jokes. "But I'm doing it totally out of respect for the great Rakim. I'm bringing his lyrics to a new generation because everybody should know how amazing he is."

Thicke — who previously collaborated with Lil Wayne, Busta Rhymes, 50 Cent, Pharrell and Rick Ross, among others — has long embraced the hip-hop community, and the affection has been reciprocated. Guests include Snoop Dogg,



MARVIN JOSEPH/TWP



**Sex
Therapy**
Robin Thicke

Kid Cudi, Lil Wayne protégé Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z and the Game.

"You have to believe that it has something to do with him being a good artist and his music being legit," manager Neil Jacobson says. "He doesn't make hip-hop music, but it's a common genre there for him. When Lil Wayne heard 'Shooters,' he reached out and jumped on the track. Robin also has Andre Harrell, one of the most special people in the music industry, mentoring him. This results in [Thicke's] having his finger on the pulse of the hip-hop and R&B community."

MARIEL CONCEPCION (BILLBOARD)

Save the Date



Let the Songs Begin: "American Idol" will kick off its ninth year with a two-night season premiere. Fox announced Tuesday that "Idol," which last year produced a battle between winner Kris Allen and runner-up Adam Lambert, will return Jan. 12 and Jan. 13. This year's big change: Paula Abdul is out as judge and Ellen DeGeneres is in. "Glee" will take a break after Dec. 9, returning April 13 to follow "American Idol." (AP)

TV tonight **lookout**

Best Bets

BRAVO
10:00

The Real Housewives Of Orange County

Vicki tries to set up her daughter, Briana, with the son of one of her insurance colleagues in the wake of Briana's breakup with her high-school sweetheart. Meanwhile, Gretchen flies to Michigan to visit with the children of her deceased fiancé.


CBS
9:00

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

A hypnotist who uses her powers of persuasion to rob banks and whose last heist ended in murder becomes the prime suspect in the case for the CSI team.

NBC
9:30

30 Rock

As production begins on her new talk show, "Dealbreakers," Liz discovers what it's like to walk a mile in Jenna's shoes. Jack also tries to make "Dealbreakers" a success. Meanwhile, Tracy tries to prove his commitment to his wife (guest star Sherri Shepherd).

NBC
9:00

The Office

Ho, ho, no! Michael must tell the truth when he cannot keep a promise he made to a group of kids 10 years ago, while Jim tries to boost staff morale by launching an employee-of-the-month program. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)


NOAH BERGER/AP

Search Engine That Could

CNBC
9:00

Maria Bartiromo hosts "Inside the Mind of Google," a profile of the remarkable company founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Never has a company become so profitable so quickly or become so omnipresent. "To Google" something has become synonymous with looking it up on the Internet, a daunting mind-set for Google's competitors to overcome. "Mind" celebrates the company's smarts and profitability, but it also offers time to Google's many critics, particularly privacy advocates who worry about traceable searches being in the hands of a single corporate entity. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Foodie Fave



Busy Bakers

On *Ace of Cakes* at 10 p.m. on Food Network, the crew at Charm City gets into the holiday spirit by dressing up as Duff, their own right jolly old elf. But there's plenty of work to be done, as Ben and Anna are challenged to create a cake in the shape of a house—which is being demolished. Elsewhere, Mary Smith tries to create the ultimate in Christmas stocking treats, while Duff focuses on a pair of bridal cakes. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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Poll Center

Today's Question

DO YOU THINK PRESIDENT OBAMA'S WAR GOALS ARE REALISTIC?

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Yesterday's Results

DO YOU THINK GAY MARRIAGE SHOULD BE MADE LEGAL IN THE DISTRICT?



"Of course gay marriage should be made legal in the District of Columbia. Anybody who denies equal rights to the GLBT community is ignorant, bigoted and hateful. Simple as that."

COMMENTER GORILLA

"Marriage is a civil right. I've been married for two years, and I don't see gay marriage as a threat to the sanctity of my marriage. Why not extend the same rights to gay couples who want to [do] the same?"

COMMENTER JESS

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM



"You would think by now every photograph or movie featuring Marilyn [Monroe] would have shown up. Apparently not, though, because some former friend of Marilyn's probably needed a boost to her retirement nest egg."

— CRAZYDAYSANDNIGHTS.NET DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT TOOK SO LONG FOR SOMEONE TO RELEASE A 50-YEAR-OLD MOVIE CLIP OF THE ACTRESS ALLEGEDLY SMOKING MARIJUANA AT A PARTY.



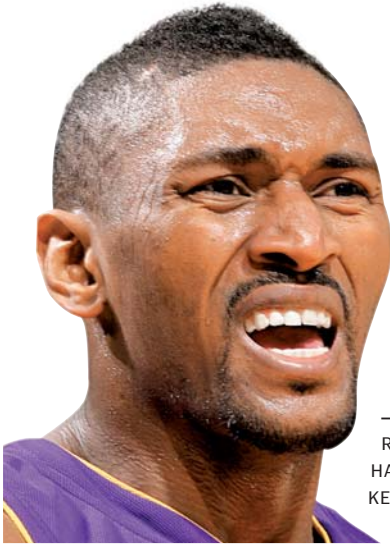
"Sheila [Dixon] is the first black female to be elected mayor of Baltimore. ... Now she is the first mayor ever in Baltimore history to be convicted of a crime — talk about historic."

— WAKEUPBLACKAMERICA.BLOGSPOT.COM DOESN'T HAVE MUCH SYMPATHY FOR DIXON, WHO WAS CONVICTED TUESDAY OF USING GIFT CARDS THAT WERE MEANT TO BE GIVEN TO NEEDY FAMILIES.



"IT IS A BIT AWE-INSPIRING to sit back and look at the five-year Facebook trajectory, from a few colleges to now more than 350 million users. Facebook is a global force in and of itself."

— THENEXTWEB.COM REACTS TO AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE'S FOUNDER, MARK ZUCKERBERG, TO ITS USERS.



"I don't know what's crazier: the fact that Artest was drinking during games or that he walked to the liquor store to buy his booze before games."

— DIMEMAG.COM IS STUNNED BY NBA PLAYER RON ARTEST'S RECENT ADMISSION THAT HE USED TO DRINK HENNESSY AT HALFTIME DURING CHICAGO BULLS GAMES. ARTEST SAID HE KEPT IT IN HIS LOCKER AND FREQUENTED THE LIQUOR STORE NEAR THE ARENA IF HE RAN OUT.

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll find that things are easing just a bit, and tensions on the home front are letting up as well. You'll breathe easier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may be the center of attention during a key part of the day, whether you want to be or not. Be ready to perform.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Someone you know well is leading you toward a major discovery, but you're not likely to arrive at that destination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may not have to deal with an uncomfortable situation for another day or two, but you can use the time to prepare yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A personal sacrifice is in order, but weigh carefully the pros and cons. Don't let a knee-jerk reaction overtake you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You're waiting for something to be over before you can begin working on something new that more fully involves all your talents.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Though your day is likely to be quite full, you should be able to make time for a family member who is hungry for a little personal contact.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may have to lay down the law and insist others follow your example and the format that you have established for current work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You can enjoy the day more fully than expected, but much depends on how much you can square away before noon. Make those calls early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may sense danger nearby, though you aren't likely to discern any details until the time has come to protect yourself and others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll be working with the calendar quite closely throughout the day to make scheduling changes that are unavoidable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You and a partner must share resources carefully; there is only so much to go around. Work in tandem whenever possible.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 214

A ₁	A ₁	I ₁	R ₁	N ₁	G ₂	N ₁

RACK 1

E ₁	I ₁	U ₁	S ₁	F ₄	F ₄	C ₃

Double Word Score

RACK 2

A ₁	A ₁	I ₁	T ₁	S ₁	N ₁	M ₃

RACK 3

E ₁	I ₁	S ₁	N ₁	C ₃	K ₅	D ₂

1st Letter Triple

RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

M ₃	A ₁	N ₁	M ₃	A ₁	D ₂	E ₁	RACK 1 =	63
A ₁	S ₁	S ₁	A ₁	U ₁	L ₁	T ₁	RACK 2 =	57
B ₃	O ₁	B ₃	C ₃	A ₁	T ₁		RACK 3 =	12
A ₁	C ₃	R ₁	O ₁	B ₃	A ₁	T ₁	RACK 4 =	83
PAR SCORE 140-150								TOTAL 215

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

		4	1					
				9	5	8		
	3							6
	5		7		1			8
	7			2			5	
6			9		8		4	
8							7	
		7	2	4				
					3	2		

Yesterday's Solution

5	9	7	8	3	4	1	6	2
1	4	6	9	5	2	3	8	7
2	8	3	7	6	1	9	5	4
8	7	4	6	9	5	2	3	1
3	5	9	2	1	8	4	7	6
6	2	1	3	4	7	5	9	8
4	3	2	5	8	6	7	1	9
7	6	5	1	2	9	8	4	3
9	1	8	4	7	3	6	2	5

Need more Sudoku?
Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

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POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

60 | 39

Today: Windy today with clouds giving way to sun. Mainly clear tonight.

48 | 34

Tomorrow: Partly sunny and colder tomorrow. Overcast tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SAT **SUN** **MON**

42 | 28 46 | 27 46 | 29

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:10 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today: 6:08 p.m.
Moonset today: 8:40 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 51
Record high: 73
Normal low: 35
Record low: 15

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**BARGAINS****Free Career With Purchase of Five Panties**

A new Victoria's Secret "angel" is getting her wings. Kylie Bisutti of Simi Valley, Calif., was the winner of a contest to choose a model for the lingerie runway show's CBS broadcast on Tuesday. Ten finalists were picked from four national casting calls and whittled down to one through online votes. Bisutti said her mother-in-law encouraged her to audition. (AP)

VIRTUES**Our Heroes Are Modest**

Four people accused of breaking into the Los Angeles homes of celebrities including Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges they stole \$3 million in jewelry, designer clothes and other items. All four are charged with felony burglary. A judge on Tuesday also ordered a fifth defendant to stand trial on a felony burglary charge related to a break-in at Orlando Bloom's home. (AP)



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

Paris taunts would-be jewelry thieves.

Dirtbag Digest**When Stars (Not!) Collide**

Michael Lohan was deposed Wednesday for TLC's lawsuit against his ex-friend Jon Gosselin, RadarOnline.com reported. He says he discussed deals he was working on for Gosselin that would have been in breach of Gosselin's TLC contract. "I think they have a very, very strong case, one that I definitely don't think they'll lose," he said of TLC's legal team. "So, good luck to Jon." Lohan said Gosselin should watch out: Ex-girlfriend Hailey Glassman "has a pretty powerful file." (EXPRESS)



RICHARD DREW/AP

Meredith Baxter, a mother of five, says she is "extraordinarily happy" now.

COMING OUT**Tardy for the Party**

Meredith Baxter, who played mother Elyse Keaton on the 1980s TV series "Family Ties," has revealed that she is a lesbian. "I am a lesbian, and it was a later-in-life recognition of that fact," the 62-year-old said Wednesday on the "Today" show. Baxter said she has been in a relationship with her girlfriend, a general contractor, for four years. "Some people are saying, 'Were you living a lie?' ... The truth is, not at all. This has only been in the past seven years," she said. (AP)

**LOGIC****The Longer You Tour, The Slower You'll Age**

Little Richard is out of the hospital after hip surgery and promises to perform again soon. He's recovering at his home near Nashville, Tenn. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, who'll be 77 Saturday, said he plans to work hard to complete his recovery so he "can get back on the road as soon as possible." He says when he returns to the stage next year, he'll "be shouting 'Shut up' and rocking like the old days." (AP)

"Possibly. We'll see what happens. I guess this is kind of the start to my campaign."



— **NICK JONAS**, WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE'LL RUN FOR PRESIDENT. HIS NEW BAND'S NAME, NICK JONAS & THE ADMINISTRATION, IS A NOD TO HIS FASCINATION WITH THE PRESIDENCY.

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